

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Council Paper No. 100 of 1912.

MINES DEPARTMENT.

Administration Report of the Inspector of Mines
for 1911-12.

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M.P. No. 5039/12.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the following report on the work of the Mines Department for the financial year 1911-1912.

OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. I and Mr. D. M. Hahn have carried out our duties as Inspector and Deputy Inspector of Mines, respectively, in addition to our work in the Public Works Department.

On July 18th Mr. A. P. Catherall, B. Sc., arrived in the Colony and took up his appointment as 1st Assistant Inspector and from that date Mr. Betancourt resumed his substantive appointment as 2nd Assistant Inspector.

LEAVE AND ACTING APPOINTMENTS.

3. I was on leave of absence from the Colony from 2nd May to 25th September and Mr. Hahn from 21st August to 6th December. I was again on leave owing to ill health from 1st February to 6th April.

Mr. Hahn acted as Inspector of Mines from 2nd May to 21st August and from 1st February to 6th April. Mr. Catherall acted as Inspector of Mines from 22nd August to 25th September, and as Deputy Inspector from 26th September to 6th December. Mr. Betancourt acted as 1st Assistant Inspector from 22nd August to 25th September.

4. The following was the Expenditure :—

Personal Emoluments :—

Inspector of Mines						
Deputy Inspector						
Assistant Inspectors	...	...	...	...	£535	2 5
Expert Adviser	...	...	...	...	100	0 0
Clerical Assistance	...	...	...	...	100	0 0
Messenger	...	...	...	...	5	0 0
					£740	2 5

Other Charges :—

Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	...	161	9 9
Surveys	...	...	...	...	60	12 5½
Contingencies	...	...	...	...	34	19 7
					£997	4 2½

LEGISLATION.

5. The Pipe Lines Ordinance, No. 19 of 1911, was passed on the 12th June, and the Oil Mining and Refining Ordinance, No. 25 of 1911, on the 29th August.

WORK UNDER THE MINES, BORINGS AND QUARRIES ORDINANCES.

6. MANJAK.—Work was continued by the Trinidad Vistabella Manjak Company Limited, at the Vistabella Mine, San Fernando, under the supervision of Mr. J. C. T. Raspass, M.I.M.E.

7. A new mine near Williamsville was opened during the year; two shafts were sunk and development operations are in progress under the supervision of Mr. Raspass. Manjak was located and is now being exported.

8. No accidents were reported; and the work was carried on to the satisfaction of the department.

9. PETROLEUM.—Taken generally the progress of the petroleum industry has not been satisfactory during the year. This was due to the under capitalisation of several companies operating in the island and to other causes over which the Government had no control. I am glad, however, to think that the prospects are more promising now.

10. The General Petroleum Properties of Trinidad, Limited, continued boring on both Crown and Private lands at Guayaguayare, and on Private lands at Aripere. No great amount of work was done at either place and operations were suspended at both in December last.

11. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company have considerably extended operations on their Private lands at Brighton. Several cargoes of oil have been shipped and development operations are proceeding.

Apart from the fact that the houses have been removed from the pier and erected on shore no very great amount of actual constructional work has been done.

12. At Point Fortin the Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, have continued drilling operations on their Private lands. They also made a beginning to open up the Crown lands under their lease with fairly successful oil indications. In addition to drilling work the Company have carried out a considerable amount of constructional work in the field, including several large storage tanks with necessary pumping stations. They have also extended the light railway and increased the accommodation for the staff.

13. The Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited, did little work on the lands held by them under prospecting license at Palo Seco. Operations were suspended early in the year pending settlement of the Mining Lease for which they applied.

14. The Trinidad Western Oilfields, Limited, continued boring on the lands held by them under prospecting license during the early part of the year and later closed operations entirely.

15. The Trinidad Cedros Oil Company, Limited, continued operations during the year; but, apart from boring, little work was done in the field.

16. The Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Company continued drilling operations on their Private lands. The chief work, apart from drilling, done during the year was the construction of storage arrangements.

17. Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has actively continued work on his "Perseverance Estate" at Guapo and at the end of the year several wells were in progress.

18. The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, commenced boring near Tabaquite on lands held by them under prospecting license. Oil was obtained and towards the close of the year they erected a small refinery for experimental purposes.

19. During the year, the following companies commenced drilling on Private lands:—

The South Naparima (Trinidad) Oil Company at Barrackpore;

The Tobago Oil Syndicate, Limited, in Tobago and the Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, at Russillac near La Brea.

20. The number of additional wells during the year was 46. This brings the total number to 90. The aggregate depth drilled was 40,418 feet.

21. During the year, 8,786,871 Imperial Gallons of oil, valued at £57,475, were exported from the colony.

22. The monthly log abstracts of the wells and of the oil won and the manner in which it was disposed of have been received and filed with the records in the office.

23. The oilfields have been inspected regularly and in most cases the Ordinances have been satisfactorily followed.

24. Natural gas is used in one or two fields to fire the boilers and in most of the others oil from the wells was employed.

25. PROSPECTING LICENSES.—I mentioned in my last report that it was found necessary to cease receiving further applications for prospecting licenses for the time being. No change in this respect was made during the year. There are still several prospecting licenses under consideration and during the year seven covering an area of 9,367 acres were issued. Two exploration licenses covering an area of 61,922 acres were also issued.

26. OTHER MINING OPERATIONS.—Applications were received for the following:—

(a.) Two licenses to prospect for lignite.

(b.) An exploration license for gold and silver.

The latter was issued and the two former approved.

27. In my last report mention was made of Iron Ore which existed in the Maracas and Santa Cruz Wards. A detailed examination of the districts was made and at date of writing a report had been submitted.

28. QUARRIES.—The majority of the quarries in the towns of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando are worked by private enterprise, the others outside being chiefly Government quarries. On the whole the provisions of the Ordinances have been satisfactorily followed by the Managers of the various quarries; though in some of the smaller ones the men in charge are illiterate and seem to find much difficulty in understanding the Ordinance.

29. The quarries in Port-of-Spain were inspected as a rule about once monthly; those in the out-districts were only visited as occasion demanded.

30. Four quarries are provided with steam boilers to drive stone crushing machinery and the regulations governing them were followed by all.

31. Under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907 notice was received of accidents which resulted in the death of 4 persons.

RETURNS UNDER THE ORDINANCES.

32. Appendix A is compiled from returns received under Section 18 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907, and shews the number of persons employed daily and the output from the various mines oilfields and quarries. In the case of two oilfields figures are not available as the responsible Managers had left the colony before the end of the financial year. Some of the Managers seem to have difficulty in keeping the records required by law and as the totals are compiled from quite a number of returns they must be looked upon as approximate only.

33. In appendix B will be found a tabulated list of accidents which have occurred at the various quarries and oilfields, during the past year.

WORK UNDER THE ASPHALT INDUSTRY ORDINANCE No. 10 of 1906.

34. No additional land was declared "Asphalt Bearing" under Section 7. Work was therefore confined to the various lots in the village of La Brea, by private owners as heretofore.

35. Thirteen lots were excavated under "Notice to Commence." These necessitated the taking of 2,612 levels. The total number taken since the introduction of the Ordinance is 20,157.

36. No application for a "Permit" under Section 9 was made.

37. Eight applications for Certificates of award were received from the Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands and one from the New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited. In connection with seven, awards were issued.

CONCLUSION.

38. I wish to express my thanks to the various Managers who in most cases have willingly given every assistance possible to allow the Department to carry out its various duties.

ARCHIBALD G. BELL,

Inspector of Mines.

MINES DEPARTMENT,
19th July, 1912.

APPENDIX A.

Daily average number of persons employed and quantity and value of minerals obtained from Mines, Borings and Quarries during the financial year ended 31st March, 1912.

Mineral.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximate value.
	Males.	Females.			
Manjak	92	12	104	1,570 tons	£ 3,345 0 0
Oil	1,208	..	1,208	9,985,748 imp. gals.	39,665 8 4½
Asphalt (Crude, Epuree, etc.)	882	18	900	184,753 tons	93,772 1 0½
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, etc.)	198	84	282	60,885 ..	3,532 0 9¼
Government Quarries (Limestone, etc.)...	465	84	549	61,122 ..	7,794 16 1

NOTE.—The difference in value between metal won from Private Quarries and Government Quarries is that the former consist of both Limestone and Gravel whilst the latter is chiefly Limestone.

APPENDIX B.

List of accidents which occurred at Mines, Borings and Quarries, during the Financial year 1911-1912 reported under Section 19 of Ordinance No. 13 of 1907.

Name or Number of Mine, Boring or Quarry.	Date 1911.	NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED.			
		Minor.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
Quinan Government Quarry	May, 17th	1	..	1	2
Trinidad Oilfields, Limited	June, 9th	..	1	..	1
La Brea Asphalt Works	July, 18th	1	..	1	2
Basilon Street Quarry	September, 6th	..	1	..	1
Usine Quarry	September, 23rd	2	..	1	3
La Brea Asphalt Works	September, 23rd	..	1	..	1
La Brea Asphalt Works	March, 1st 1912	..	..	1	1
Total	..	4	3	4	11

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Borings and Quarries worked during the Financial year 1911-12.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Mines.</i>						
1	Vista Bella ...	San Fernando ...	Trinidad Vista Bella Maujak Company, Limited ...	J. C. T. Raspass ...	59	Manjak.
2	Williamsville ...	Williamsville ...	J. C. T. Raspass, San Fernando ...	" ...	54	"
3	Village Lots ...	La Brea ...	Ambard and Protheroe, Port-of-Spain ...	R. Fitzallen ...	167	Asphalt.
4	Pitch Lake ...	" ...	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd., London, England ...	W. D. Fowler ...	483	"
5	Do. ...	" ...	La Brea Asphalt Works, La Brea ...	C. Phelps ...	250	"
<i>Borings.</i>						
1	Oil Wells ...	Guayaguayare ...	General Petroleum Properties of Trinidad, Limited, Port-of-Spain ...	" ...	103	Oil.
2	Do. ...	Point Fortin ...	Trinidad Oilfields, Limited, Point Fortin ...	T. L. Scott ...	227	"
3	Perseverance Estate ...	Guapo ...	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain ...	E. Pereira ...	12	"
4	Oil Wells ...	Palo Seco ...	Trinidad Petroleum Options, Limited, 62, London Wall, E.C. ...	Alex. Covey ...	5	"
5	Do. ...	Cedros ...	Trinidad Cedros Oil Company, Limited ...	W. Greig ...	24	"
6	Do. ...	Point Ligoure ...	Guapo (Trinidad) Oil Company, Limited ...	G. E. Pousonby ...	90	"
7	Do. ...	Siparia ...	Trinidad Western Oilfields, Limited, c/o Wilsons (G. & T.) Limited, Port-of-Spain.	" ...	8	"
8	Do. ...	Brighton ...	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton ...	W. D. Fowler ...	686	"
9	Do. ...	Tabaquite ...	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, Tabaquite ...	H. P. Ingram ...	26	"
10	Do. ...	Tobago ...	Tobago Oil Syndicate, Limited, Tobago ...	R. W. Cater ...	15	"
11	Do. ...	Rousillac ...	Consolidated Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, Rousillac ...	A. M. Scott ...	12	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	Campo street ...	St. Juan ...	J. T. Gittens ...	I. Anderson ...	5	Limestone.
2	River Estate ...	Diego Martin ...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	6	"
3	Cutucupano ...	Santa Cruz ...	" " ...	" ...	5	"
4	Carrera ...	Carrera Island ...	" " ...	Supt. of Prisons ...	135	"
5	Villamar ...	Gaspatee ...	F. Herrera ...	N. Waterman ...	5	"
6	Nariva ...	Tabaquite ...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	13	"
7	Atagual ...	" ...	" " ...	" ...	4	"
8	Plum ...	Plum ...	" " ...	" ...	30	"
9	Tamana ...	Tamana ...	" " ...	" ...	16	"
10	Morichal ...	Morichal ...	" " ...	" ...	5	"
11	Mayo ...	Mayo ...	" " ...	" ...	7	"
12	Mochel Poorie ...	Talparo ...	" " ...	" ...	6	"
13	Sanchuchu ...	Tamana ...	" " ...	" ...	2	"
14	Glendale ...	San Fernando ...	H. R. McClean ...	H. R. McClean ...	6	Gravel.
15	Circular Road ...	" " ...	Borough Council, San Fernando ...	J. J. Waddell ...	2	"
16	Usine ...	" " ...	New Colonial Company ...	H. T. Cox ...	12	"
17	La Coulée ...	" " ...	Heirs of Mary Joaquin, Coffee Street, San Fernando ...	F. E. Oliveira ...	2	"
18	Pickering ...	" " ...	W. Harewood and P. P. Pickering ...	P. P. Pickering ...	1	"
19	Siparia ...	Siparia ...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	32	Limestone.
20	Biche ...	Biche ...	" " ...	" ...	35	"
21	Needham ...	Santa Cruz ...	Joseph Hyde, Santa Cruz ...	R. Williams ...	6	"
22	Pointe-à-Pierre ...	Pointe-à-Pierre ...	J. Glendinning, Port-of-Spain ...	H. R. McClean ...	112	"

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Borings and Quarries worked during the Financial year 1911-12.—*Continued.*

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily average No. of persons employed	Mineral worked.
23	Guaracana ...	Guaracana ...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer, San Fernando	11	Limestone.
24	Quinam ...	Quinam ...	" " ...	District Officer, Siparia	9	"
25	La Ressource ...	Erin ...	" " ...	" " ...	9	"
26	Whim and Providence	Tobago ...	" " ...	District Officer ...	3 and 4	Dead Rock.
27	Morne Roche ...	Bonne Aventure ...	" " ...	" " ...	10	Limestone.
28	La Pique ...	San Fernando ...	Canadian Mission ...	Rev. J. A. Seringeour	1	Gravel.
29	Railway ...	Champ Fleurs ...	Trinidad Government Railway ...	J. W. Stewart ...	17	Limestone.
30	Cumuto ...	Cumuto ...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	20	"
31	Moruga ...	Meruga ...	" " ...	" " ...	18	Sandstone.
32	Santa Maria ...	Santa Cruz ...	J. P. Bernard ...	S. Barnswell ...	6	Limestone.
33	Morne Diable ...	...	Trinidad Government ...	District Officer ...	14	"
A	Basilon Street ...	Basilon Street ...	J. T. Gittens ...	J. Lashley ...	40	"
C	David Street ...	Gloster Lodge ...	J. T. Gittens ...	J. T. Gittens ...	10	"
D	Quarry Street ...	...	J. T. Gittens ...	" ...	15	"
E	St. John ...	...	" " ...	J. Lashley ...	9	"
F	Gloster Lodge ...	Gloster Lodge ...	F. Gonzales ...	F. Gonzales ...	7	"
G	Duke street ...	Port-of-Spain ...	F. Sorzano ...	J. R. Lopez ...	9	"
H	Queen street ...	" ...	J. T. Gittens ...	J. Lashley ...	7	"
I	Prisoners' ...	Laventille ...	Trinidad Government ...	Supt. of Prisons ...	17	"
J	Clifton Hill ...	" ...	J. W. McCarthy ...	J. Lashley ...	9	"
K	Eastern ...	" ...	Trinidad Government ...	J. de Nobriga ...	122	"
N	St. Joseph Road ...	" ...	J. W. McCarthy ...	J. Lashley ...	5	"
O	Fort George ...	Fort George Road ...	J. T. Gittens ...	C. Valciant ...	6	"
P	St. Louis ...	Laventille ...	Alonso Richard, Port-of-Spain ...	T. St. Louis ...	6	"