

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Council Paper No. 39 of 1918.

---

MINES DEPARTMENT.

---

Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 1917.

---

---

*Laid before the Legislative Council on the  
5th April, 1918.*

---

---

*Previous Council Paper No.*

*Registered No. of Correspondence relating to the subject—M.P. No. 1572/18.*

---

---

PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, PORT-OF-SPAIN.

1918.

[Price 4d.]

## MINES DEPARTMENT.

## Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 1917.

Council Paper No. 39 of 1918.

M.P. No. 1572/1918.

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 year ended 31st December, 1917.

## OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. Owing to the continuation of the War no increase was made to the staff of the Department during the year.

## LEAVE.

3. No officer of the Department was on leave of absence outside the Colony during the year.

## LEGISLATION.

4. Two Ordinances were passed, one to amend the Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Oil Excise Ordinance, 1914, and the other to control the acquisition of Oil-bearing lands in the Colony.

## WORK UNDER THE MINES, BORINGS AND QUARRIES ORDINANCES.

5. MANJAK. Mining operations by the Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company on the Vistabella Estate, San Fernando, were recommenced during the early part of the year and are still in progress.

6. PETROLEUM. Although the number of feet drilled shews a decrease over that of the previous year, it affords me great pleasure to be able to record an increase of over 72 per cent. in the production of oil.

The figures are as follows :—

	Year ended 31st December, 1916.		Year ended 31st December, 1917.	
	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial Gallons.	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial Gallons
Crown Lands ...	30,835	16,758,467	42,480	37,307,980
Private Lands ...	27,555	15,717,228	9,557	18,772,934
Totals ...	58,390	32,475,695	52,037	56,080,914

New wells aggregating 44 were drilled during the period under review—38 on Crown and 6 on Private Lands—and in 31 of these oil was struck. This brings the total number of wells drilled in the Colony to 31st December, 1917, to 369, of which 199 are located on Crown Lands.

7. The number of Companies engaged in the winning of oil at the close of the year was eleven—an addition of one to the number operating at the end of 1916.

8. The Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, continued their drilling operations on the Crown Lands leased by them in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. A very active drilling programme was carried out, resulting in a largely increased production. The construction work has been chiefly confined to the making of roads and to the erection of the various buildings incidental to increased development. A considerable amount of work has also been carried out at this Company's Shipping Depôt at Pointe-à-Pierre. The Refinery mentioned in my last report was completed and in operation for the greater part of the year. Oil Fuel to Admiralty Specification was manufactured in fair quantities and exported for the use of His Majesty's Navy. An additional pipe-line for the shipment of distillates from the storage tanks to the island jetty was also laid.

9. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, have done very little drilling on their private lands at Brighton, their energies being mainly directed to the production of oil from the old wells. I understand that difficulty is being experienced in obtaining tank steamers to export the crude oil which in former years was shipped to the United States.

10. The United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, have continued work on the lands held by them under lease near Guapo. The drilling has been chiefly confined to the area formerly held under Prospecting Licence by the Parry Syndicate, and a considerable production of Crude Oil has resulted. The wells on the Crown and Private lands at Point Fortin have also continued to produce. This Company's oil has been purchased by the United British Refineries, Limited, and put through their Refinery at Point Fortin—the resulting products being either exported or disposed of locally.

11. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, have continued the drilling of test wells, but, so far, without obtaining oil in paying quantities. During the early part of the year operations on the Stollmeyer block were suspended, and, since then, work has been largely confined to the areas formerly held under Prospecting Licence by Clark and Dreyfus.

12. The lease to be issued to the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, has not yet been signed and, therefore, the Company is still operating under their Prospecting Licence. Towards the end of the year the drilling programme was increased, and the prospects of an enlarged production appear favourable. The pipe-line from the field at Tabaquite to their storage depôt at Claxton's Bay has been completed, but, so far, it has not been used. The Refinery has been in operation during the whole of the year, the products—petrol, kerosene, lubricating and fuel oils—finding a ready market in the West Indies. A portion of these products has also been exported to England in barrels.

13. The Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Limited, continued drilling operations on their private lands at Barrackpore, and the production was greatly increased. Considerable quantities of Oil Fuel to Admiralty Specification were manufactured at the Refinery and sold to the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, who exported same for the use of His Majesty's Navy. In addition the local requirements of a number of sugar estates were supplied. Some small alterations to the refinery were made and additional tank storage provided.

14. The Petroleum Development Company, Limited, have suffered from the same lack of shipping facilities as the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, by whom all their production is taken. A small quantity of drilling work was undertaken. The existing wells continued to produce oil which, as hitherto, was pumped to the storage tanks of the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company at Brighton.

15. Small quantities of oil have been obtained from the wells on the Perseverance Estate, the property of Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer.

16. The Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, who are operating on Crown Lands under lease at Palo Seco, did no drilling during the period under review. A fair production of oil was obtained from the wells already drilled, and this was treated in the refinery—petrol and kerosene being obtained and sold locally. I am given to understand that this Company intends to resume drilling operations at an early date.

17. The wells situated on private lands at Pointe Ligoure and the property of the T. O. P., Limited, continued to produce oil in small quantities.

18. The Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited, commenced operations on Private Lands at Guayaguayare, but, so far, oil has not been met with in paying quantities.

19. No work has been done by any of the following Companies during the year :—The Cruse Syndicate, Limited; The Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad) Limited; The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company; The Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited; and the Icaos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited.

20. I am pleased to be able to report that the Royalty earned during the past year was nearly double that earned during 1916 being £14,616 as against £7,765. The major portion of this, namely, £14,269, was derived from oil won from lands held under lease, while £347 were obtained from lands held under Prospecting Licence.

21. The way-leave payable in respect of pipe-lines laid along the Trinidad Government Railway and along the Public Roads of the Colony also shewed a very considerable increase, as £2,599 became due for oil piped along the Railway and £1,039 for oil piped along Roads—the corresponding figures for the previous year being £256 and £115, respectively. In addition to this £11 were charged for crossing with pipe-lines the Foreshore, Railway and Roads.

22. The usual returns in respect of drilling work, and the extraction and disposal of the oil, have been regularly submitted by the Companies concerned, and after being checked have been filed with the records in the office.

23. INSPECTIONS. In addition to the routine inspections which have been regularly made by the Officers of the Department, it was, as usual, necessary to carry out a considerable number of additional ones in connection with accidents, royalty, wayleave, refineries, the exclusion of water

from wells, etc. In most cases it was found that the Ordinances and Regulations were satisfactorily followed. There was, however, one instance in which proceedings had to be taken against the Manager of one of the Oil Companies.

24. LEASES AND LICENCES. No Licence or Lease over Crown Lands were issued during the year. As mentioned in my last report an application was received from the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, covering the whole of the areas they desire to take up under Prospecting Licence. The Licence has, however, not yet been executed. The Lease to be issued to the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, is also awaiting execution.

25. QUARRIES. The remark under this head in my last report as to there being little to report in this branch still holds good, as, with the exception of a few Government Quarries, they are small and unimportant. They have been regularly inspected by the Officers of the Department, and in most cases they have been worked in a careful manner. There were 68 quarries worked during the year, as against 61 in 1916.

#### WORK UNDER THE PETROLEUM ORDINANCE, NO. 20 OF 1915.

26. A large number of Inspections in connection with this Ordinance have been carried out, and I am pleased to say that in most cases it was found that the utmost care was exercised by the public in storing the various products of petroleum.

#### THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS ORDINANCE, NO. 13 OF 1915.

27. In addition to the Oilfields 82 Factories in Trinidad and 16 in the Tobago Ward were inspected. On the whole the provisions of the Ordinance were very satisfactorily carried out by the owners and managers of the various Factories concerned. During the year there were seven accidents, of which four were fatal.

#### WORK UNDER THE ASPHALT INDUSTRY REGULATION ORDINANCE.

28. I have again to report that there has been no digging of the village lots at La Brea during 1917. I do not anticipate that this industry will be re-opened until there are more shipping facilities.

29. APPENDICES. The majority of the returns under the Ordinances from which the appendices to this report are prepared were obtained from the various parties without trouble.

Appendix A shews the average number of persons employed and the quantity and value of minerals obtained.

The list of accidents is shewn in Appendix B, they are chiefly of a minor nature, and are such as are incidental to all industrial operations.

The Mines, Borings and Quarries worked during the period are shewn in Appendix C.

30. GENERAL REMARKS. As mentioned in my last report some of the smaller Companies are awaiting the close of the War to commence or extend operations. On the other hand the larger Companies have on the whole done well, and this in spite of their having been seriously handicapped by the scarcity and greatly increased cost of materials, and by the lack in certain instances of shipping facilities. Regular shipments of Crude Oil, Oil Fuel and Distillates have been made to the Admiralty for the use of His Majesty's Navy, and these are likely to continue for some time to come. The bunkering trade has also continued to progress satisfactorily—and the same may be said of the local and West Indian Markets. The total quantity of Oil and its products exported exceeded 37,000,000 Imperial gallons, an increase of some 3,000,000 gallons over the previous year.

31. STAFF. I have again to express my sincere thanks to the several members of the staff for their very able and loyal assistance.

P. STEVENS,  
Inspector of Mines.

22nd March, 1918.

## APPENDIX A.

Daily average number of persons employed and quantity and value of Minerals obtained from Mines, Oilfields and Quarries, during the year ended 31st December, 1917.

MINERALS.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximate Value.
	Males.	Females.			
Oil ... ..	1,792	65	1,857	50,080,914 Imp. Gals.	£ 236,534
Asphalt ... ..	542	..	542	131,483 tons ..	87,769
Manjak ... ..	22	2	24	434 ,, ..	1,808
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, &c.) ..	165	53	223	90,040 ,, ..	4,392
Government Quarries (Limestone, &c.) ..	327	103	430	66,771 ,, ..	10,541

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

## APPENDIX B.

List of Accidents which occurred at Mines, Oilfields and Quarries, during the year ended 31st December, 1917, reported under Section 19 of Ordinance, No. 13 of 1907.

Name of Mine, Oilfield or Quarry.	Date.	Number of Accidents Reported.			
		Minor.	Serious.	Fatal.	Total.
Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	11th January, 1917	1	..	..	1
	22nd ,, ,,	2	..	..	2
	19th February ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	21st ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	22nd ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	20th April, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	30th May, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	31st ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	7th June, ,, ,,	3	..	..	3
	15th ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	2nd July, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	7th August, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	11th ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	16th ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	3rd September, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Ltd.	24th ,, ,,	2	1	..	3
	8th November ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	23rd ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	5th March ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	27th November, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
Trinidad Oil & Transport Co., Ltd.	30th ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	13th February, ,, ,,	2	..	..	2
	17th May, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	28th July, ,, ,,	..	..	1	1
Trinidad Lake Petroleum Co., Ltd.	4th September ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	11th December, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	15th ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	17th ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
United British Oilfields of Trinidad Limited.	10th June, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	13th August, ,, ,,	..	..	2	2
	26th September, ,, ,,	..	..	1	1
	12th January, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
Perseverance Estate	24th April, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	12th May, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	25th July, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	16th August, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
La Brea Asphalt Works	29th ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	23rd April ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.	26th October, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	31st March, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
Usine Quarry	17th September, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	7th February, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
Bourne's Bay Quarry	3rd May, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	6th November, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
Duke Street Quarry	13th June, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
	30th October, ,, ,,	..	1	..	1
	24th November, ,, ,,	1	..	..	1
Eastern Quarries	..	..	..	..	..
	..	..	..	..	..
		35	15	4	54

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the year ended 31st December, 1917.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Mines.</i>						
1	La Brea Asphalt Works	La Brea	Stollmeyer, Limited, Port-of-Spain	Claude Phelps	125	Asphalt.
2	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited	Brighton	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Limited, Brighton, Trinidad	John H. Weller	417	"
3	Vistabella	San Fernando	Trinidad Tarouba Oil Development Company	J. J. Waddell	24	Manjak.
<i>Oilfields.</i>						
1	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	Tabaquite	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, 2, Broad Street Place, London, E.C.	R. H. May	259.4	Oil.
2	Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Limited	Barrackpore	Trinidad Oil & Transport Company, Limited, 48, Canon Street, London, E.C.	Latham Watson	102	"
3	Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited	Palo Seco	Trinidad United Oilfields Ltd., Finsbury Court, London, E.C.	P. C. Bird	23.27	"
4	Perseverance Estate	Guapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	14	"
5	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited	San Fernando, Siparia and Moruga	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, P.O. Box 162, Port-of-Spain	F. J. Flemming	59	"
6	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	Point Fortin	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, 32, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.	"	553	"
7	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	Forest Reserve near Fyzabad	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, 1, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.	H. S. Fuller	395	"
8	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	Pointe-à-Pierre	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, 1, London Wall Buildings, London, E.C.	"	230	"
9	Petroleum Development Company, Limited	Brighton	Petroleum Development Company, Limited, Brighton	John H. Weller	65	"
10	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited	Brighton	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton	"	137	"
11	T. O. P., Limited	Pointe Ligoure	T. O. P., Limited, 18, Chacon Street, Port-of-Spain	L. Daly	3	"
12	Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited	Guayaguayare	Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited, 62, London Wall	R. Rust	17	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	River Estate	Diego Martin	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain	District Officer	3.21	Limestone.
2	Cutucupano	Santa Cruz	" " "	"	3.50	"
3	Mat hapoorie	Talparo	" " "	"	6.4	"
4	Trinidad Government Railway	St. Joseph	" " "	"	9	"
5	Old Grange Main Road	Tobago	" " "	"	2.11	Marl.
6	Mt. Parnassus	Tobago	" " "	"	3.46	Rotten Rock.
7	Plum	Plum Road	" " "	"	8	Limestone.
8	Siparia	Siparia	" " "	"	12	Porcellanite.
9	Buenos Ayres	Erin	" " "	"	7	"
10	Morne Diabie	San Fernando	" " "	"	11	Limestone.
11	Southern Central Road, No. 1	Cedros	" " "	"	8	Porcellanite.
12	Brasso	Brasso Road	" " "	"	5	Limestone.
13	Corosal	Corosal	" " "	"	13	"
14	Guaracara	Guaracara	" " "	"	5.94	"
15	Morichal	Morichal	" " "	"	3	"
16	Mayo	Near Mayo Village	" " "	"	5	"
17	Tabaquite-Nariva No. 1	Tabaquite-Nariva Road	" " "	"	9.44	"
18	Mount Hope	St. Joseph	" " "	J. McInroy	9	"
19	Moruga	Moruga Road	" " "	District Officer	8	Sandstone.
20	Eastern Quarries	Laventille	" " "	F. J. Horsford	129	Limestone.

APPENDIX C.—List of Mines, Oilfields and Quarries worked during the year ended 31st December, 1917.—Continued

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of Persons Employed.	Mineral Worked.
<i>Quarries—Continued.</i>						
21	Prisoners ...	Port-of-Spain ...	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain ...	Supt. of Prisons ...	30	Limestone.
22	Carrera Island ...	Carrera Island ...	" " " " " " " "	H. Daniel... ..	78	" "
23	Point Radix ...	Mayaro ...	" " " " " " " "	District Officer ...	7	" "
24	Fishing Pond ...	Yaigual ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	3	" "
25	Tamana Quarry 5½ mile	Tamana Road ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	7	" "
26	Guaico-Tamana Road 8th mile	Guaico-Tamana Road	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	13	" "
27	" " 10th "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	4	" "
28	" " 11th "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	6	" "
29	Cunapo Southern 13½ "	Cunapo Southern Road	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	7	" "
30	" " 16½ "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	3	" "
31	Tamana-Cumuto Rd. 17th "	Tamana-Cumuto Road	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	4	" "
32	Mandillon ...	Mandillon Road	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	6	Gravel.
33	La Pique ...	San Fernando ...	Canadian Mission, San Fernando	W. Boopsingh ...	3	" "
34	Usine ...	" " " " " " " "	St. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited	O. P. Bennett ...	6	" "
35	Borough Council	" " " " " " " "	Borough Council, San Fernando	J. J. Waddell ...	1	Marl.
36	Circular Road	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	1	" "
37	Stollmeyer's	Guapo ...	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira... ..	8	Sandstone.
38	Bandhoo...	San Juan ...	Bandhoo, San Juan ...	Jonwa Jaffar ...	2	Gravel.
39	Les Champs Elysees Estate	Maraval ...	Mrs. Poleska de Boissière, Maraval	C. Mohan ...	12	" and Sand.
40	" " No. 2 ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	Boodoo ...	3	Limestone.
41	Mahon ...	Carenage ...	George Mahon, Hart's Cut	T. Alexander ...	3	" "
42	Thomas Bay ...	Gaspatee ...	Wellington Park, 21, Sandhurst Street, Port-of-Spain	E. Seraphim ...	2	" "
43	La Coulée ...	San Fernando ...	Heirs of Mary Joaquin, 99, Coffee Street, San Fernando	F. E. Olliviera ...	2	Gravel.
44	Bourne's Bay	Gaspatee ...	J. T. Gittens, 25, Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain	M. Govia ...	6	Limestone.
45	San Juan ...	San Juan ...	F. J. Gransaul, St. Joseph ...	L. Brown ...	2	Gravel.
46	Champ Fleurs	St. Joseph ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	3	Limestone.
47	St. Joseph No. 1	San Fernando ..	A. W. Harewood & P. P. Pickering, San Fernando	P. P. Pickering ...	1	Gravel.
48	" " 2	" " " " " " " "	P. P. Pickering, San Fernando...	" " " " " " " "	1	" "
49	St. John Gravel Pit	Carapichaima ...	Amelio Bailey, Freeport Village	J. Malony... ..	4	" "
50	Duke Street	12, Duke St., Port-of-Spain.	Virginia Prime, 12, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain	C. Atwell ...	9	Limestone.
51	Pointe-à-Pierre	Pointe-à-Pierre ...	H. R. McLean, San Fernando ...	S. O. Rudin ...	12	Sandstone.
52	Savary Bay	Gaspatee ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	5	Blue Limestone.
53	Mary William	Gasparillo ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	44	White Limestone.
54	Glendale ...	San Fernando ..	" " " " " " " "	H. R. McLean ...	18	Gravel.
55	Charles ...	" " " " " " " "	Lewis Charles, 115, Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain	C. Lucas ...	1	" "
56	Silver Mill...	San Juan ...	J. T. Gittens, 25, Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain	C. A. Gittens ...	4	" "
57	Campo Street	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	6	Limestone.
58	Gonzales ...	Gloster Lodge ...	" " " " " " " "	J. Lashley... ..	6	" "
59	St. John Street	East Dry River...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	5	" "
60	Basilon Street	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	15	" "
61	Irving Lane	Clifton Hill ...	" " " " " " " "	" " " " " " " "	5	" "
62	Masson ..	Pointe Gourde ..	Lee Lum and Heirs of George Dranguet, Port-of-Spain	F. B. Masson ...	5	Blue Limestone.
63	Boca View ...	Gaspatee ...	T. de Fague, 26, Frederick Street, Port-of-Spain	T. de Fague ...	3	Limestone.
64	Cocorite Farm	Mucurapo ...	The Port-of-Spain City Council	Philip Charles ...	4	" "
65	Stanislaus ...	Laventille ...	J. T. Gittens, 25, Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain	J. Lashley ...	3	" "
66	Aranguéz Farm	San Juan ...	Mrs. M. A. Rapsey, Maraval ..	J. P. Potter ...	15	Sand and Gravel.
67	La Pena ...	Port-of-Spain ...	Blanche Blackman, 5, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain	J. Anthony ...	3	Limestone.
68	Plum ...	Manzanilla ...	Manzanilla Local Road Board, Sangre Grande	A. P. William ...	2	" "