

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

Council Paper No. 46 of 1919.

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# MINES.

Administration Report of the Inspector of Mines for 1918.

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*Laid before the Legislative Council on  
the 4th April, 1919.*

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*Previous Council Paper No. 39 of 1918.*

*Registered No. of Correspondence relating to the subject—M.P. No. 2053/1919.*

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

1919.

[Price 4d.]

## MINES.

## Administration Report of the Inspector of Mines for 1918.

Council Paper No. 46 of 1919.

M.P. No. 2053/19.

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, 1918:—

## OFFICIAL DUTIES.

2. Owing to the continuation of the War no increase was made to the Staff during 1918, but the Secretary of State having sanctioned the amalgamation of the Crown Lands and Mines Departments the re-organisation consequent thereon will shortly be effected.

## LEAVE.

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

## LEGISLATION.

4. No further legislation in connection with the Department was enacted.

## 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 suspended in April.

6. PETROLEUM. The number of feet drilled shews a slight increase over that of 1917, and the production of oil an increase of nearly 30 per cent.

The figures are as follows:—

	Year ended 31st December, 1917.		Year ended 31st December, 1918.	
	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial Gallons.	Feet drilled.	Oil won. Imperial Gallons.
Crown Lands ...	42,480	37,307,980	47,487	55,609,748
Private Lands ...	9,557	18,772,934	6,751	17,262,650
Totals ...	52,037	56,080,914	54,238	72,872,398

During 1918 the number of new wells drilled was 41 (37 on Crown and 4 on Private lands) and in 29 of these oil was struck. The total number of wells drilled in the Colony to 31st December, 1918, is 410 of which 236 are on Crown Lands.

7. Companies engaged in the winning of oil numbered 12 as against 11 at the end of 1917.

8. During the year the Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, acquired the property at Barrackport from the Trinidad Oil and Transport Company, Limited, and a fair production of oil is being obtained therefrom. On the Crown Lands of the Morne L'Enfer Reserve held by them under Lease work has progressed satisfactorily and the production has been considerably increased. In several of the wells the oil is extracted by means of compressed air. Most of the oil is refined at the Company's Refinery at Pointe-à-Pierre; this Refinery has been in operation during the whole of 1918 and has given excellent results. Considerable quantities of Oil Fuel to Admiralty Specification, White Oil and Petrol have been manufactured and exported for the use of His Majesty's Navy. It having been found that the waters of the Gulf of Paria had a very detrimental effect on the pipe lines laid on the sea bed for the purpose of shipping oil, these lines have now been taken up and laid on piles from the sea shore to the island jetty. The Company now possesses four pipe lines for shipping different grades of oil. A number of storage tanks, bungalows, &c., have also been erected during the period under review.

9. The Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, did no drilling on their private lands at Brighton, but continued to produce oil from the old wells. They have large stocks of Crude Oil on hand owing to the difficulties experienced in obtaining shipping facilities. One cargo of oil was shipped by the Company to the Admiralty.

10. Drilling by the United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, on the Parry area near the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve has been continued and a fair production of oil obtained. Oil has also been extracted from the old wells in the vicinity of Point Fortin. The whole of the production has been sold to the United British Refineries, Limited, at Point Fortin, and the resulting products either exported or disposed of locally.

11. The United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, have continued drilling on the areas formerly held under Licence by Clark and Dreyfus. A small production of a fairly high grade oil, which has been sold to the United British Refineries, Limited, has been obtained from the Clark area.

12. The Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, have now taken a lease over a considerable portion of the Crown lands formerly held by them under Prospecting Licence at Tabaquite. In my last report I stated that the prospects of an enlarged production appeared favourable, and I am pleased to say my anticipations have been realised—the production of this Company having of late very largely increased. The oil obtained is of the highest quality. Considerable quantities of the Crude Oil have been refined on the Field, the balance being pumped to their Storage and Shipping Depôt at Claxton's Bay. Towards the close of the year a bulk shipment was made to the Admiralty.

13. The Petroleum Development Company, Limited, have continued to produce oil from the old wells, and this oil has, as in former years, been disposed of to the Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited. When the shipping situation becomes easier it is expected that operations will be resumed on a much larger scale.

14. Mr. C. C. Stollmeyer has not drilled any new wells on the Perseverance Estate at Guapo, but has obtained a small production from the existing wells.

15. I regret to state that the Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, have not yet resumed drilling on the Crown Lands held by them under Lease at Palo Seco. The wells already drilled have produced oil in small quantities. This has been passed through their Refinery and the resulting products disposed of locally.

16. The Company known as the T. O. P. Limited, is now the Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited, and from wells situated on their private lands at Point Ligoure small quantities of oil have been obtained.

17. The Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited, continued drilling operations on their private lands at Guayaguayare during the early part of the year but were not successful in striking oil.

18. The Ière Oil Company, Limited, the capital of which has been subscribed locally, drilled two wells on private lands near Barrackpore and quite lately from one of these wells oil has been obtained.

19. Another new Company—the London and West Indies Oil Company, Limited—commenced drilling operations on private lands adjoining the Crown Lands held under Lease by the Trinidad Leaseholds in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve. So far one well has been drilled and oil struck.

20. The Cruse Syndicate, Limited, and the Oil Concessions of Mayaro (Trinidad), Limited, have been absorbed by the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, and an Agreement with the Government has been entered into regarding the taking up of a Licence and Lease over these and other lands.

21. No work has been done by any of the following Companies:—The Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company; The Trinidad Silverstream Oilfields, Limited; and the Icacos (Trinidad) Development Company, Limited.

22. The Royalty earned during 1918 was £18,542 as against £14,616 in 1917. Leases accounted for £18,485 and Licences for £57.

23. The Revenue obtained from way-leave in respect of pipe lines laid along the Trinidad Government Railway and along the Public Roads of the Colony has also shewn an increase. The amounts for 1918 are Railways £3,167 and Roads £1,334, as against £2,599 and £1,039, respectively, for 1917. Fees charged for crossing the Foreshore, Railway and Roads with pipe lines amounted to £14.

24. The Companies have regularly submitted the various returns in respect of drilling work, and the extraction and disposal of the oil. These, after being checked, have been filed with the office records.

25. INSPECTIONS. The Officers of the Department have carried out the usual routine inspections, in addition to which a large number of special inspections in connection with accidents, royalty, way-leave, refineries, and exclusion of water from wells have been made, and it has been found that in the majority of cases the provisions of the Ordinances and Regulations have been carefully carried out. It has not been necessary to institute any prosecutions.

26. LEASES AND LICENCES. A Mining Lease over 1,000 acres of Crown Lands was issued to the Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited. The Prospecting Licence to the United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, mentioned in my last report, has not yet been executed.

27. QUARRIES. Have been regularly inspected and in most cases found to be worked in a careful manner. In 1918 the number of quarries worked was 73 as compared with 68 in 1917.

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

28. The premises in which the various products of Petroleum are stored have been carefully inspected, and it is satisfactory to note that as a rule great care is exercised in the storing of these products.

**THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS ORDINANCE, No. 13 OF 1915.**

29. Regular visits have been paid to the various factories, and I am pleased to be able to report that the provisions of the Ordinance have been most carefully followed. In all 83 factories in Trinidad and 12 in Tobago were inspected. During the year there were eight accidents of which two proved fatal.

**WORK UNDER THE ASPHALT INDUSTRY ORDINANCE.**

30. No work was done on the Village Lots at La Brea during 1918, but I understand that operations may be resumed so soon as freights are reduced.

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

The accidents shown in Appendix B were chiefly of a minor nature.

In Appendix C is given a list of the Borings and Quarries worked during 1918.

A comparative statement of oil produced, refined and exported is given in Appendix D.

32. GENERAL REMARKS.—During the past year the Petroleum Industry has progressed satisfactorily. Some of the larger Companies have continued to do well, and now that the War is practically over it is expected that the smaller Companies will shortly resume or extend operations. It must also be noted that the oil rights over large tracts of land have lately been acquired by some influential British Companies, so that everything considered the future prospects of the Trinidad oil industry appear excellent. The shipments of Crude Oil, Oil Fuel and Distillates to the Admiralty have largely increased and I understand are likely to continue to do so. A good business has been done in 'bunkering' and the prospects for a considerable and continuous increase are very favourable. The Local and West Indian trade continues to make excellent progress. During the twelve months ended 31st December, 1918, the export of oil and its products amounted to 45,000,000 Imperial Gallons as against 37,000,000 for 1917.

33. STAFF. It affords me the greatest pleasure to record my sincere appreciation of the very able and loyal assistance I have invariably received from all members of the Staff.

P. STEVENS,  
Inspector of Mines.

26th March, 1919.

## 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, 1918.

MINERALS.	Daily average number of persons employed.		Total.	Quantity.	Approximat Value.
	Males.	Females.			
Oil ... ..	2,262	49	2,311	72,872,398 Imp. Galls.	£301,016
Asphalt ... ..	521	...	521	71,233 Tons ...	44,520
Manjak ... ..	37	2	39	171 ,, ...	534
Private Quarries (Limestone, Gravel, etc.)..	1,544	63	1,607	91,320 ,, ...	5,888
Government Quarries (Limestone, etc.) ..	492	101	593	79,306 ,, ...	11,898

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, 1918, 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	12th January, 1918 ...	2	..	...	2
	18th ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	15th February, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	22nd ,, ,, ...	...	...	1	1
	4th March, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	4th April, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	26th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	17th May, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	31st ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	21st June, ,, ...	...	...	1	1
	6th July, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	13th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	29th ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	6th August, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	28th ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	3rd September, ,, ..	1	...	...	1
	10th ,, ,, ...	1	1	...	2
17th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1	
9th October, ,, ...	2	...	...	2	
9th November, ,, ...	1	...	...	1	
11th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1	
29th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1	
11th December, ,, ...	...	1	...	1	
28th ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1	
William Bertram Mitford ...	9th ,, ,, ...	3	...	...	3
Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited...	5th January, ,, ..	1	...	...	1
	29th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	22nd March, ,, ..	1	...	...	1
	30th May, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	23rd September, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	4th October, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	10th December, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	19th ,, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
La Brea Asphalt Works	23rd ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	7th January, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
Glendale Quarry	8th October, ,, ...	...	..	1	1
	8th January, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
Morne Diable Quarry (No. 1)	30th ,, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	23rd February, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
Eastern Quarry...	26th August, ,, ..	1	...	...	1
	1st May, ,, ...	1	...	...	1
	5th October, ,, ..	1	...	...	1
Havering Estate	8th November, ,, ...	...	...	1	1
	2nd December, ,, ...	...	1	...	1
	12th July, ,, ..	...	1	...	1
		34	12	4	50

APPENDIX C.

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	Claude Phelps	121	Asphalt.
2	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Limited	Brighton	New Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, Ltd., Brighton, Trinidad.	John H. Weller	400	"
3	Vistabella	San Fernando	Trinidad-Tarouba Oil Development Company, San Fernando	J. J. Waddell	39	Manjak.
<i>Oilfields.</i>						
1	Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited	Palo Seco	Trinidad United Oilfields, Limited, 40-42, Broad Street Avenue, London, E. C.	P. C. Bird	19.39	Oil.
2	Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates, Limited	Pointe Ligoure	Transvaal and Rhodesian Estates Limited, London	L. S. Daly	2	"
3	Perseverance Estate	Guapo	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	9	"
4	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited	Tabaquite	Trinidad Central Oilfields, Limited, 2, Broad Street Place, London, E.C. 2.	R. H. May	378.2	"
5	Ière Oil Company, Limited	Barrackpore	Ière Oil Company, Limited, San Fernando	C. E. Burrows	30	"
6	Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Ltd.	Guayaguayare	Oil Exploration of Trinidad, Limited, 14, Chacon Street, Port-of-Spain	R. Rust	25	"
7	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited	Brighton	Trinidad Lake Petroleum Company, Limited, Brighton	J. H. Weller	102	"
8	Petroleum Development Company, Limited	"	Petroleum Development Company, Limited, Brighton	"	51	"
9	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited	Point Fortin	United British Oilfields of Trinidad, Limited, Port-of-Spain	F. J. Fleming	618	"
10	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited	Siparia and Moruga	United British West Indies Petroleum Syndicate, Limited, Port-of-Spain	"	84	"
11	William Bertram Mitford	Oropuche	W. B. Mitford, Hampstead, London	R. Slye	14	"
12	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited	Fyzabad	Trinidad Leaseholds, Limited, 1, London Wall Buildings, E. C.	H. S. Fuller	446	"
13	"	Barrackpore	"	"	132	"
14	"	Pointe-à-Pierre	"	"	401	"
<i>Quarries.</i>						
1	Plum No. 1	Sangre Grande	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain	District Officer	2.98	Limestone.
2	Fishing Pond No. 1	"	"	"	2.14	Porcellanite.
3	" No. 2	"	"	"	4.48	"
4	Mandillon	"	"	"	4.4	Limestone
5	Plum No. 2	"	"	"	6.27	"
6	" 3	"	"	"	3.06	"
7	San Chu Chu	"	"	"	6.31	"
8	Guaico-Tamana 7½ Mile	"	"	"	10	"
9	Cumuto Road 17th	Cumuto	"	"	5.25	"
10	Morne Diable No. 1	San Fernando	"	"	11	"
11	" No. 2	"	"	"	18	"
12	Buenos Ayres	Erin	"	"	6	Porcellanite.
13	Siparia	Siparia	"	"	9	"
14	Brasso	Brasso	"	"	7.82	Limestone.
15	Corosal	"	"	"	13	"

APPENDIX C.—CONTINUED.

	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
	<i>Quarries.—Contd.</i>					
16	Morichal ...	Brasso ...	Trinidad Government, Port-of-Spain ...	District Officer ...	4	Limestone.
17	Mayo ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	5	" "
18	Guaracara ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	6	" "
19	Providence ...	Tobago ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	4.28	Dead Rock.
20	Mount Parnassus ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	2.94	" "
21	Eastern ...	Laventille ...	" " " " ...	F. J. Horsford ...	128	Limestone.
22	Southern Road 7 3/4 Mile	Cedros ...	" " " " ...	District Officer ...	7	Porcellanite.
23	" " 7 1/2 "	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	7	" "
24	Chatham Main Road 5th mile	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	10	" "
25	Matchapoorie ...	Arina ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	5	Limestone.
26	Moruga ...	Moruga Road ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	15	Sandstone.
27	Point Radix ...	Point Radix ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	33	Limestone.
28	Morne Roche ...	San Fernando ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	5	" "
29	Trinidad Government Railway	St. Joseph ...	" " " " ...	H. A. Sharpe ...	8	" "
30	Prisoners ...	Laventille ...	" " " " ...	Supt. of Prisons ...	49.7	" "
31	Carrera ...	Carrera Island ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	138.9	" "
32	Havering Estate ...	Cumuto ...	" " " " ...	District Officer ...	8.11	" "
33	Guaico Tamana ...	Sangre Grande ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	8	" "
34	Moreau ...	Princes Town ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	20	Sandstone.
35	Mount Hope ...	St. Joseph ...	" " " " ...	J. McInroy ...	7	Limestone.
36	Cutucupano ...	Santa Cruz ...	" " " " ...	District Officer ...	6	" "
37	River Estate ...	Diego Martin ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	4.5	" "
38	La Coulée ...	San Fernando ...	Heirs of Joaquim, San Fernando ...	S. Passee ...	1	Gravel.
39	Basilon Street ...	Port-of-Spain ...	J. T. Gittens, South Quay, Port-of-Spain ...	Chas. Archibald ...	11	Limestone.
40	St. John's ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	4	" "
41	Irving Lane ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	4	" "
42	Clark's ...	Laventille ...	Chas. Newallo, 48, Oxford Street, Port-of-Spain ...	Chas. Newallo ...	38	" "
43	Prizgar ...	" ...	Trinidad Shipping & Trading Co., Ltd., Port-of-Spain ...	C. C. Carmichael ...	3.4	" "
44	Adivinanza ...	Princes Town ...	C. H. Packer, Princes Town ...	C. H. Packer ...	10	Sandstone.
45	Usine ...	San Fernando ...	Ste. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, England ...	A. G. Mahon ...	9	Gravel.
46	Boca View ...	Gasperee ...	T. de Fague, 45, Belmont Circular Road, Port-of-Spain ...	J. Williams ...	2	Limestone.
47	Masson ...	Pointe Gourde ...	Lee Lum, Port-of-Spain ...	F. B. Masson ...	5	Blue Limestone.
48	Gonzales ...	Laventille ...	L. A. Fitzwilliam ...	L. A. Fitzwilliam ...	5	Limestone.
49	Gransauil ...	San Juan ...	F. E. Gransauil, St. Joseph ...	L. R. Brown ...	2	Gravel.
50	Duke Street ...	Port-of-Spain ...	V. Prime, 12, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain ...	C. Attwell ...	7	Limestone.
51	Circular Road ...	San Fernando ...	Borough Council, San Fernando ...	J. J. Waddell ...	1	Gravel.
52	Borough Council ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	1	" "
53	Pointe-à-Pierre ...	Pointe-à-Pierre ...	H. R. McLean, " " " " ...	H. R. McLean ...	14	Sandstone.
54	Savary Bay ...	Gasperee ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	7	Limestone.
55	Glendale ...	San Fernando ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	15	Gravel.
56	Thomas Bay ...	Gasperee ...	W. Park, Sandhurst Lane, Port-of-Spain ...	E. Seraphin ...	2	Limestone.
57	Silver Mill... ...	San Juan ...	J. T. Gittens, 67, Tragarete Road, Port-of-Spain ...	C. H. Gittens ...	4	Sand and Gravel.
58	Campo Street ...	" ...	" " " " ...	" " " " ...	5	Limestone.

APPENDIX C.—CONTINUED.

No.	Name.	Situation.	Owner and Address.	Manager.	Daily Average Number of persons employed.	Mineral worked.
<i>Quarries.—Contd.</i>						
59	Bourne's Bay ...	Gaspree ...	St. Madeleine Sugar Company, Limited, San Fernando	C. H. Gittens	4	Limestone.
60	Mahon ...	Pointe Gourde ...	J. T. Gittens, 67, Tragareto Road, Port-of-Spain	"	2	"
61	Quarry Street ...	Port-of-Spain ...	"	Charles Archibald	2	"
62	Verdant Vale ...	Arima ...	Trinidad Cocoa and Coffee Co., Limited, Arima	E. Thatcher	1	"
63	Charles ...	San Fernando ...	L. Charles, 115, Tragareto Road, Port-of-Spain	C. Lucas	1	Gravel.
64	Mitchell's Bay ...	Pointe Gourde ...	J. W. Edwards, 45, Queen Street, Port-of-Spain	J. W. Edwards	2	Limestone.
65	Stollmeyer ...	Guapo ...	C. C. Stollmeyer, Port-of-Spain	E. Pereira	8	"
66	St. Joseph No. 1 ...	San Fernando ...	G. W. Harwood and P. P. Pickering, San Fernando	P. P. Pickering	1	Gravel.
67	" No. 2 ...	"	J. J. Waddell, San Fernando	"	"	"
68	Aranguez Farm ...	San Juan ...	M. A. Rapsey, Maraval	A. Maradge	15	"
69	St. Ann's ...	St. Ann's ...	Martin Campbell, St. Ann's	L. Lamorell	5	"
70	La Pena ...	Port-of-Spain ...	Mrs. Blackman, 5, Duke Street, Port-of-Spain	A. Todman	11	Limestone.
71	La Pique ...	San Fernando ...	T. L. Dunsire, San Fernando	Arch. Sandiford	2	Gravel.
72	Champs Elysee ...	Maraval ...	Mrs. P. de Boissière, Maraval	C. Mohan	12	Sand and Gravel.
73	Plum ...	Manzanilla ...	Manzanilla Local Road Board, Sangre Grande	A. P. Williams	2	Limestone.

APPENDIX D.—Comparative Statement of Oil produced, refined and exported year by year since inception of Industry.

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YEAR.	Production in Gallons.	Quantity of Crude Oil refined in Gallons.	Quantity of Crude and Refined Oil exported in Gallons.
1905-1909-10	368,934	...	...
1910-11	4,378,942	...	...
1911-12	9,985,748	Previous to 1912-13 ... 1,324,468	7,685,374
1912-13	17,626,563	331,928	4,295,707
1913-14	22,523,060	1,227,134	13,570,152
1914-15	36,753,931	1,449,445	12,192,289
9 months ended December, 1915	23,489,362	2,045,286	14,286,585
1916	32,475,695	3,773,770	34,129,955
1917	56,080,914	17,675,068	37,777,919
1918	72,872,398	73,722,915	45,689,234
	276,555,547	101,550,014	169,627,215