

THE EVOLUTION OF THE OIL INDUSTRY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649244539

The evolution of the oil industry by Victor Ross

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VICTOR ROSS

**THE EVOLUTION OF
THE OIL INDUSTRY**

**THE EVOLUTION OF THE
OIL INDUSTRY**



The first oil well drilled near Titusville, Pa., on August 27, 1859, by Col. Edwin L. Drake, the pioneer man of the world

THE EVOLUTION
of the
OIL INDUSTRY

BY
VICTOR ROSS



ILLUSTRATED
FROM
PHOTOGRAPHS

GARDEN CITY NEW YORK
DOUBLEDAY, PAGE & COMPANY
1920

PREFACE

BY DR. VAN H. MANNING

Director of the Division of Technical Research of the American Petroleum Institute. Formerly Director of the Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior

A GLANCE at the chapter headings in this little book shows that it is an endeavour to present in succinct form a survey of a great and ever-expanding economic revolution—the interpenetration by petroleum of all industries, whether of the factory or the field, land or sea, war or peace. This phenomenon has been almost exclusively a development of the past six decades, and the United States of America have been the predominant factor in the innumerable changes wrought thereby. The narrative confines itself rigidly to historic records and material facts, undeniably romantic in themselves. But as the epic unfolds itself, it assumes a super-phase, the import of which cannot be measured by mere figures—a super-phase with invaluable applications to the problems of humanity in an industrial age.

Petroleum, it becomes clear, was the first natural

product to which the abstract theory of order, as understood by modern social philosophers, was applied in a large and general sense. It must be accounted good fortune not only for America but for the world at large, that this movement, though gradual at the outset, commenced almost within a decade of the birth of the modern petroleum industry at Titusville, Pa., in 1859. The outcome has tended to influence economic thought the world over, especially since war on an unprecedented scale put all established systems, traditions, and institutions to the acid test.

Foreign observers and critics, friendly or unfriendly, admit that in one matter American foresight and enterprise have taught the older nations valuable lessons—and that is in respect of standardized production—or to put it in another way, organized industry. America's achievements in this domain during the past half century have represented incalculable and beneficial advancement beyond the industrial conditions of all past centuries. With this record of progress, the growth and expansion of the petroleum industry have been inseparably associated. The famous pioneers in organizing the production, refining and distribution of

petroleum have also been pioneers in the application of the principle of order to industry; which, in essence, means the elimination of waste and misdirected energy from human effort.

Organized industry means something entirely different from a system aiming at quick and enormous profits. It is based on a definite theory of scientific effort, whereby all the possibilities of a given resource are developed to their fullest degree, so that waste ceases, the value of the worker's labour is increased with benefits to himself, and the consumer receives the blessings of nature's dower at the lowest reasonable cost. As the ensuing chapters show, the accomplishment of these objects in the case of petroleum has involved much more than the application of the physical sciences to manufacturing processes. It has meant the development of systematized methods in discovery and location, transportation and distribution, so that from the moment oil is "struck," in say a barren patch of prairie, until any one of the many products of crude petroleum is placed in the hands of the consumer—here, or in some distant isle of the sea—there shall be no waste and no injustice, and that all the hands through which it passes shall reap a just benefit.

The far-sighted Americans of the transition period in this country's history, who created the modern petroleum industry, and built up the machinery for its continuous expansion, began with the definite aim of involving order from chaos. They were from the outset reformers of business methods and enemies of waste. The latter had become colossal during the unsettled years that were marked by the duration and aftermath of civil war. The work of these business pioneers was gradual, but it developed an ever-increasing impetus; and as the years went on the ethical import of their mission became more and more apparent. It would be wide of the facts to say that the element of gain played no part in these developments. Little indeed would be accomplished in the way of progress were the incentive of personal gain in some form or other removed. On this point the Scottish economist, Adam Smith, spoke pertinently one hundred and fifty years or more ago: "By pursuing his own interest a man frequently promotes that of society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it." Nevertheless it is clear that in the case of some of the leaders most closely identified with the organization of the petroleum industry, personal motive and energy were