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**GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF OIL DRILLING**

UNCONTROLLED lumber industries pillaged the vast timber resources of the United States. The people are paying the price of that folly now. And while the government makes a belated gesture at conservation, the waste goes on apace in the great forest lands of the northwest.

What happened in the southern and mid-west timber countries is taking place today wherever oil is found.

And the big oil companies, like the lumber barons of the early days, stand solidly and with the weight of all their great resources against government regulation of a continent's treasure-house of petroleum.

We do not hold with those who believe that the government should dip into private enterprise at every opportunity. But we do maintain with the conservationists that a nation's natural resources are its people's heritage—not to be wasted wantonly by private industry.

There is only so much oil under the ground in the United States. To take it out of the ground more rapidly than it is needed, to let it evaporate from tanks above ground, to produce it faster than it is utilized—that is waste of God's treasure.

The government should control the spacing of wells in proven territory. Too close drilling should not be allowed.

The supply should not be allowed to speed ahead of the demand. Government control would not deprive independent operators of their right to drill for oil. But it would conserve the oil supply and save it from costly overexploitation.

In California especially is control required. The oil sands in this state are of such a

nature that edge water creeps into the oil formation rapidly when close drilling prevails. As a result the fields here drop off rapidly in production.

Witness the amazing decline at Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, and the closely drilled sections of the Torrance-Lomita field. At the Springs and on the Hill salt water already is creeping in, killing scores of wells. And this before the maximum of recoverable oil is brought to the surface.

At Torrance and Lomita the water has not yet reached the closely drilled area. The field is too new. But production has fallen off rapidly where the wells are "hub to hub."

Government regulation of the spacing of wells would lengthen the life of California oil fields. It would likewise insure the maximum recovery of oil.

The larger companies are fighting regulation. But the larger companies will not drill wells too closely spaced.

Why? They are willing, however, to let the small operator do so. That makes for cheap crude oil, even if the wells of the small operator do not pay.

The big companies make no economic mistakes. Wells they put down in proven territory on big leases are long-lived and pay out.

Why should the larger companies object to a regulation which would require that wells be spaced at distances already recognized as economically advantageous by the larger companies themselves?

If it pays to drill closely, why don't the big companies drill closely?

If it does not, why do they object to regulation?

**SUCKER LIST FAKERS OPERATE FROM MEXICO**

RECENT activities on the part of fraudulent stock dealers, whose operations in Southern California and Texas have been made extremely hazardous because of the activities of the state corporation department and the United States postal authorities, indicate that at least some of this gentry have migrated to Mexico and are now engaged in forwarding their alluring literature to persons throughout California who are on what is commonly known as the "sucker list."

An example of these operations came to the attention of the corporation department recently through circulars which were forwarded to residents of Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles by Freeman Berns, whose address in Mexico is given as Apartado No. 139, Bis. Mexico. Berns' particular stock in trade is an appeal to the cupidity of the investors of his "sucker list" by guaranteeing—and his word is the only guarantee—2000 per cent on the investment within thirty days.

The corporation department immediately referred the matter to the postoffice department,

and has received information that a number of complaints already have been lodged with the postal authorities concerning the operations of Berns, and the postoffice department has directed that all mail sent from the United States to Berns be returned from El Paso with the notation "Fraudulent, returned by order of the Postmaster General."

Commissioner of Corporations Edwin M. Daugherty has issued a warning to the investing public to beware of all offers of securities emanating from Mexico. Before any money is sent or an investment made, the prospective investor should obtain competent advice from a banker, a financier, or other informed person in whom he has confidence.

It is evident that at least a goodly portion of the stock crooks, wildcat operators and confidence men frightened from Texas and California by the activities of the federal department of justice, postoffice department and the state corporation department are now operating in fancied security from different points in Mexico.

**SHORT JABS AND JOLTS FROM FAR AND NEAR**

Europe might manage to carry her own burdens if her shoulder wasn't occupied by a chip.—Birmingham News.

Another earthquake shock is reported from California. What is Hiram saying now?—New York Evening Post.

It is all right to train your son for a white-collar job if you don't spoil him by teaching him to eat heartily.—Associated Editors.

The law of supply and demand doesn't always obtain. Look how many reformers we have, and how little reform.—Bethlehem Globe.

A census of the motor cars in Switzerland shows an increase of over four thousand since last year. The High Alps, however, are still comparatively safe for pedestrians.—Punch (London).

When the medical diploma factory at St. Louis has been cleaned out, the public might turn an eye on the crowd that has been prescribing remedies for the wheat farmer.—New York Evening Post.

A man was lured from Chicago to Buffalo and shot, showing you how some of our leading industries are reaching out for business.—American Lumberman.

French say the Germans are sending all their good money abroad, and now they've let the ex-crown prince return to Germany, which is our idea of all going out and nothing coming in.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Women campaign workers in Queens county, New York, demanded half of the party campaign fund, indicating that women's demands under enfranchisement have fallen off about 50 per cent.—Boston Transcript.

Study in American universities is not half as much endangered by football as by highball.—Christian Statesman.

We are informed that Mr. Ford is a non-smoker and a teetotaler. This is all very laudable, but we can not forget that he is addicted to making those cars.—Punch (London).

Just when we were ready to admit that there may not be a literal hell, along comes a crew that exploits disabled veterans.—Jersey City Journal.

"Nothing in this world is done as well as it can be done," says Mr. Gordon Selfridge. What about the British taxpayer?—The Humorist (London).

Much of this present-day whisky is aged in the wood, but the wood is provided by the undertaker.—Hackensack Evening Record.

Perhaps it isn't good taste to nag at France too much. We took our time about paying our debt to Lafayette.—Binghamton Sun.

Without the date-lines, sometimes it would be hard to tell whether a news dispatch were from the Ruhr or Oklahoma.—San Antonio Express.

It is stated that since prohibition there has been more lunacy in the U. S. We can well believe it—judging by the songs they send us.—London Opinion.

As the reparations crisis becomes acute, Berlin gives out the pertinent information that blondes have more hair than brunettes.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Germans engaged in the publication of paper marks now realize that they made the mistake of getting out too many extras.—Washington Star.

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