

GASPE OF YESTERDAY

THE GOLDEN GOAL

THE SEARCH FOR PETROLEUM IN GASPE

PART II

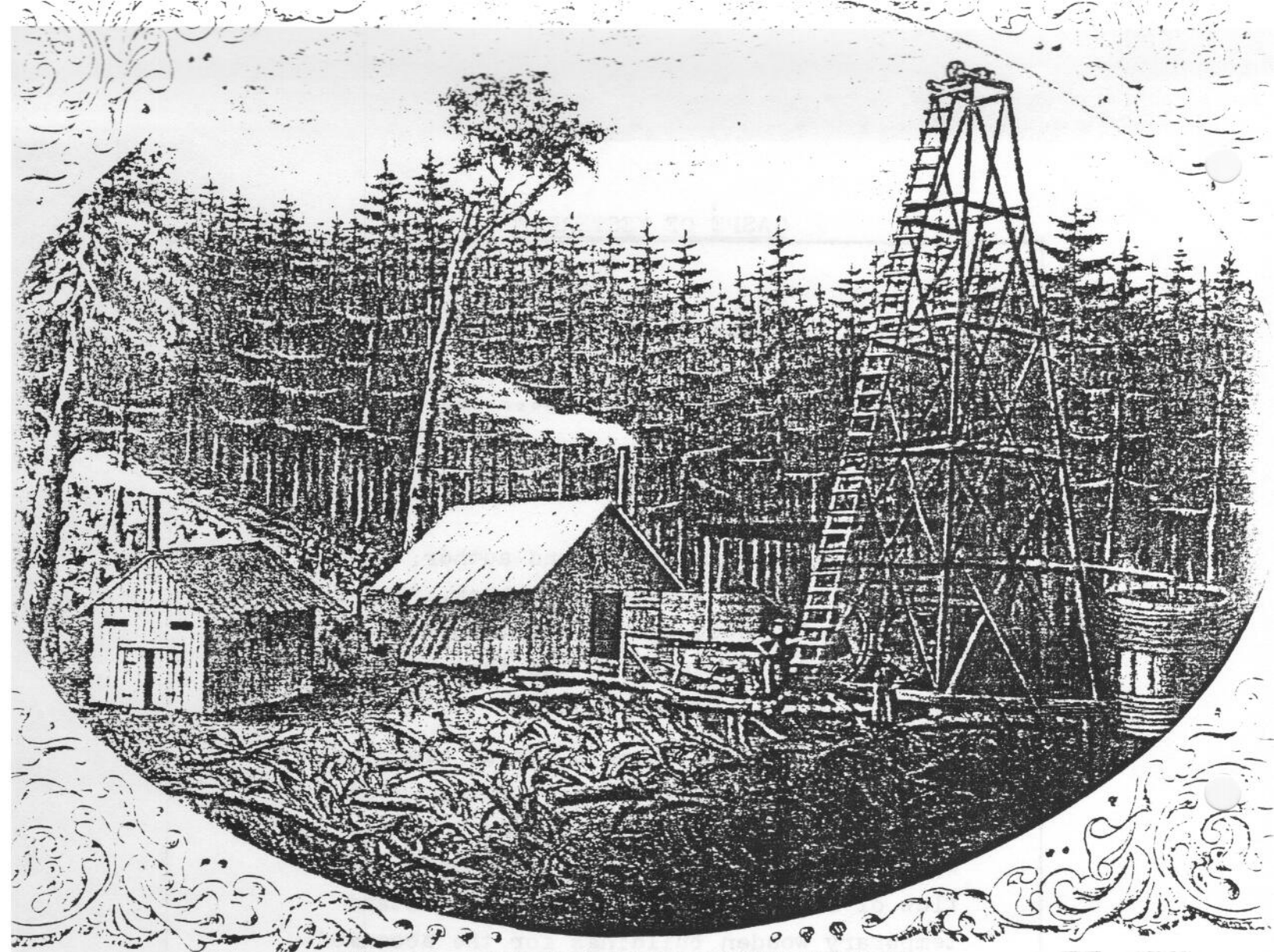
When the Gaspesian artist and author, Thomas Pye, published his remarkable book, "GASPE SCENERY", in 1866, one of the scenes that he depicted and commented on was that of the Conant Oil Well at Sandy Beach.

Pye's illustration shows a forest clearing dominated by a tall, heavily braced, wooden derrick. Near the derrick stands a large, wooden cask or tank to hold the hoped for flow of oil. Nearby in the clearing stand temporary wooden buildings for the accommodation of the drilling crew and for the storage of tools. One gains the distinct impression that the fire hazard in such a forest clearing would be high.

This illustration of "GASPE SCENERY" is precious in that it enables one to visualize, more than a century later, the typical scene at the more than fifty drilling sites in Gaspé from 1860 to 1900.

In this second part of "THE GOLDEN GOAL" it is proposed to recall the search for petroleum during that period.

KEN ANNETT



THE CONANT WELL

SANDY BEACH

GASPÉ

THOMAS PYE

"GASPÉ SCENERY"

1866

"THE GOLDEN GOAL"

PART II

In the previous article on "The Golden Goal" it was recalled that petroleum springs in Gaspé had been known to the native Micmac Indians in distant time. They came to public attention in the early 1800's and received a wider attention through the interest of the Governor-General, Lord Aylmer and the Proceedings of the Literary and Historical Society of Québec which reflected the receipt from Gaspé in 1836 of a sample bottle of "Barba'oes tar" from Mr. M'Connell, His Majesty's Customs of Gaspé. The petroleum springs were examined by William Logan and other members of the Geological Survey in the 1840's and 1850's. In 1860 two shallow wells were drilled with inconclusive results. Geological reports in 1863 and 1865 indicated that further trial was indicated. The stage was set for the serious search for petroleum in Gaspé that would proceed, intermittently for a number of decades.

To grasp the scope and seriousness of the search for oil that began in the 1860's, it may be helpful to list, in compact form, the various wells drilled, their local designation, the companies involved, the depth of the drilling and results in brief. In the table that follows of fifty-seven such Gaspé oil wells the following abbreviations have been used:

- GBM.....Gaspé Bay Mining Co.
- GOC.....Gaspé Oil Co.
- POT.....Petroleum Oil Trust
- CPC.....Canada Petroleum Co.
- IOC.....International Oil Co.
- GBS.....Gaspé Bay South.

INFORMATION TABLE FOR 57 GASPE OIL WELLS IN PERIOD 1860-1913

LOCATION	COMPANY NO.	WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Seal Cove, near shore	POT	#4	2970 ft.	Small show of oil at 2215 feet,
.....				
Haldimand, north shore of St. John Barachois	POT	#3	2235 ft.	Salt water at 1304 ft. but no oil.
.....				
Douglastown, south shore of St. John Barachois	GBM	-	600 ft	1860 well. Traces of oil found.
.....				
Sandy Beach	GOC	-	684 ft.	1865 well known as the Conant or Adams well. Oil found at various levels from 83 feet on. Pumped 25-30 bbls of dark green oil. Site depicted by Thomas Pye in "GASPE SCENERY", published in 1866.
.....				
Sandy Beach, Lot B1	POT	#2	2582 ft	Show of oil at three levels from 500 ft. but no flow.
.....				
Sandy Beach, Lot B1	POT	#8	1450 ft.	Much salt water but no oil.
.....				
Sandy Beach, Lot A6	POT	#1	2400 ft.	Show of oil at 2048 ft and 2400 ft. but no flow.
.....				

LOCATION	COMPANY	NO. WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
North West Arm. Lot 14 North Range I	POT	#9	2719 ft.	No oil found.
Eastern St. John River. South of river, Range III York Tp. Lot 25	POT	#23	1800 ft.	No oil found
York Tp. Range III Lot 3	POT	#24	1230 ft.	Hard limestone. No oil found.
Western St. John River. Range III York Tp. Lot 50	POT	#26	2900 ft.	Some gas at 1700 ft. No oil found.
<u>EASTERN YORK RIVER - SILVER BROOK AREA</u>				
GBS Range I Lot 33	POT	#12	3002 ft.	Small show of oil at 2830 ft. No flow.
GBS Range I Lot 33	POT	#7	2650 ft.	1892-93. Pumped some 25 bbls of oil and lost another 200 bbls by accident.
GBS Range I Lot 33	CPC	#10	2385 ft.	A little oil found.
GBS Range I Lot 3	POT	#5	2640 ft	Show of oil at 1850 and 2360 ft. but no steady flow.
GBS Range I Lot 29	CPC	#7	2046 ft	Recovered 2 or 3 bbls of oil.
GBS Range I Lot 30	POT	#10	1400 ft.	135 gallons of oil.

LOCATION	COMPANY	NO. WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
GBS Range I Lot 31	CPC	#9	2360 ft.	No oil found.
.....				
GBS Range I Lot 32	POT	#13	2050 ft.	No flow but seeped oil later from casing.
.....				
GBS Range I Lot 34	CPC	#3	2230 ft.	1899 well. No oil.
.....				
GBS Range I Lot 35	POT	#11	2957 ft.	1893-95. Struck oil and gas at 2220 ft. Explosion and rig burned. Loss of several hundred bbls of oil. More oil found at 2485 ft. but not in quantity.
.....				
GBS Range I Lot 36	POT	#14	2775 ft	Produced small amount of oil. Seepage from casing continued to soak surrounding ground.
.....				
GBS Range II Lot 16	GBM	-	600 ft.	1860. The Campbell Well near Silver Brook. No oil. Ref. SPEC article of D. and D. McDougall
.....				
GBS Range II Lot 6	POT	#15	2012 ft	50 bbls of oil bailed at contact and 7-8 gallons per day for some months.
.....				
GBS Range II Lot 5	POT	#39	-	Rig erected but well not drilled.
.....				
GBS Range II Lot 7	POT	#36	1950 ft	1901 well. No oil

LOCATION	COMPANY NO.	WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
<u>SOUTHEAST GALT TOWNSHIP</u>				
Block 42 Galt.	POT	#16	2995 ft.	1895 well. Show of oil at 2664 ft. Pumped 150 gals. Continuing seepage from casing soaked ground in 100 ft. radius.
.....				
<u>UPPER SILVER BROOK AREA</u>				
GBS Range III Lot 22	POT	#22	3130 ft	1896-97. Pumped up to 4 bbls per day for a time but no flow.
.....				
Block 31 Galt	POT	#37	2600 ft.	Show of green oil at 2215 ft. but little produced.
.....				
Block 42 Galt	POT	#38	2100 ft	1901-02. Small show of oil at 2030 ft.
.....				
<u>LITTLE FORK-YORK RIVER AREA</u>				
Block 42 Galt	POT	#6	3640 ft	1892 well. Small show of oil at 2950 ft.
.....				
Block 41 Galt	IOC	-	1700 ft	East side of block near middle. No oil. IOC was a Minnesota, U.S.A. company.
.....				
<u>FOURTH LAKE AREA</u>				
Block 44 Galt	POT	#25	2978 ft	1895-96 well. No oil but gas at 1700 and 2550 ft.
.....				
<u>MISSISSIPPI BROOK AREA- LAROCQUE TOWNSHIP</u>				
Block 40 York River	POT	#33	2607 ft.	1899-01. No oil

LOCATION	COMPANY	NO. WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Block 40 Just west Miss. Brook	POT	#31	2815 ft.	Pumped some 25 bbls of oil. Oil continuing to rise in casing could be bailed out.
Block 40 Just east Miss. Brook	CPC	#5	2200 ft.	Show of oil at 1349 and 2140 ft. 3 bbls bailed out. Rig burned.
Block 40 York River	POT	#29	2600 ft	Some gas and oil at 2180 ft. Site of central collecting tank with pipeline to the refinery. 200-300 bbls of amber oil reported in tank by Ells on his visit.
Block 40	CPC	#2	1591 ft.	Small show of oil and gas at 1570 feet. Rig burned.
Block 40	POT	#27	2200 ft.	1900-01 well. Strong flow of oil and gas at 1467 ft. Considerable quantity of oil recovered - more lost and several hundred bbls burned.
Block 40	POT	#32	1925 ft.	Struck oil and gas. Initial yield 1745 gals.
Block 40	CPC	#11	1924 ft.	A little oil at 1490 ft.
Block 40 Junction of Twenty and Miss. Brooks	POT	#30		No oil or gas but much salt water. Rig burned.
Block 40	CPC	#8	2394 ft.	Only small trace of oil

LOCATION	COMPANY	NO. WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Block 40	CPC	#6	2360 ft.	Traces of oil at 2340 ft. but no yield. Rig burned.
Block 40	CPC	#1	1582 ft	1899 well. Struck oil and gas at 1550 ft. Recovered more than 1000 gals.
Block 40	CPC	#4	2200 ft	No oil. Rig burned.
Block 40 East of east branch Miss. Brook.	POT	#35	1810 ft.	Hardness of limestone broke drilling tools. No oil
Block 40	POT	#34	1677 ft.	Oil struck at 1600 ft. Recovered 1744 gals to 1902.
Block 40	POT	#19	2340 ft.	Quality amber oil at three levels from 1185 ft. Initial recovery 850 gals.
Block 40. Half way between Big Fork and Miss. Brook crossings.	POT	#17	2550 ft	Oil found at four levels from 1185 ft
Block 40 17 Brook	POT	#18	1960 ft.	1895-96 well. Show of oil at 990 and 1095 ft. but no flow.
Block 40	POT	#20	2173 ft	1896 well. Initial output 1750 gals. Oil continued to seep from casing. Active well - 5 gals could be bailed at any time.

LOCATION	COMPANY	NO. WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Block 40	POT	#21	1830 ft	No oil but a strong flow of very cold, slightly saline and distinctly sulphurous water.
.....				
<u>LAROCQUE TOWNSHIP</u>				
Block 39	CPC	#12	1500 ft.	No oil.
.....				
Block 38	POT	#28	3525 ft.	1897-98 well. No oil.
.....				
Block 38	POT	#40	2305 ft.	No oil found.
Falls Brook				
.....				
<u>MALBAY</u>				
Malbay River, North side, 9 miles from mouth	Eastern Canada Company	Single Well	2950 ft	This well drilled in 1913 by a company managed by C.B.K. Carpenter. No oil found.

.....

THE PETROLEUM OIL TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

It is evident from the above table that the Petroleum Oil Trust and its branch company, the Canada Petroleum Co., dominated the Gaspé oil drilling scene for a decade or more from 1890. Based in London, England, the POT was incorporated in 1889 under the Imperial Companies Act of the United Kingdom. Its initial capital was fixed at £ 430,000. To an initial acquisition of 30,000 acres of Crown land in the basins of the rivers flowing into Gaspé Bay it later added another 20,000 acres that had been held by the Gaspé Oil Company. Among the branch or affiliated companies of the POT were:- LA SOCIETE BELGE DES PETROLES DU CANADA, THE IRISH PROPRIETARY CO., known in Gaspé as THE GASPE OIL FIELD CO., and THE CANADA PETROLEUM CO., of London and Manchester capitalized at £ 300,000.

It is appropriate to recall some of the difficulties faced by the POT in Gaspé during the decade prior to and immediately after the year 1900. At that time the railway had not reached Gaspé. All equipment had to be brought in by sea during the open shipping season. Roads had to be cut through the forest and often corduroyed to support the transport of heavy loads. Bridges were required to cross rivers and brooks. On the York and St. John Rivers scows were built and employed for the transport of goods. Apart from the building of some 75 miles of roads it was necessary to cut and dress the timber for erecting derricks, houses for the drilling crews, stables and store houses. This work gave regular employment to more than 200 Gaspé men who acquired skill and experience as builders of derricks, blacksmiths, tool repairmen, and drillers. The POT is on record as rating its Gaspé workmen as highly skilled - even more so than their colleagues in American oil fields. The impact of this search for petroleum on the economy of Gaspé was significant.

As there is no substitute for direct, eye-witness account of the oil drilling in Gaspé, the third article of this series will recall such observation and comment by Joseph Obalski, Mining Engineer and Superintendent of Mines for Québec from 1881 to 1909, who visited the Gaspé Oil Field on more than one occasion.

A final note on the POT. Readers of SPEC may recall reference in THE BAY CHALEUR RAILWAY-PART II to Alfred William Carpenter, a principal of London's Charing Cross Bank and Gaspé railway builder. Mr. Carpenter was also the President of POT. The operations manager of POT was Mr. Foley. By 1902 the POT ceased operations in Gaspé, went into liquidation, and had its holdings sold at Sheriff's Sale in London, England on December 30, 1905.

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PART III

"...The work done up to the present(1899) though extending over a long period and representing a comparatively large expenditure, is only of a preliminary nature. Petroleum exists in the region; it is of superior quality and it remains to be seen whether it is to be found in paying quantities. It is desirable that the operations of the Petroleum Oil Trust should attain that end, for in that case the industrial development of that section of the country would be extraordinary, and its effects would extend far beyond Gaspé and contribute to enhance the value of that great peninsula..."

Joseph Obalski,
Supt. of Mines,
Quebec.

KEN ANNETT

THE GOLDEN GOAL

PART III

An expert, eye-witness of the oil drilling activity in Gaspé during the period of the Petroleum Oil Trust was Joseph Obalski. A native of France, Obalski was educated as a mining engineer at the ECOLE DES MINES, Paris and had European experience in his profession before coming to Canada in 1881 as Superintendent of Mines for Québec, a post he held until 1909. A charter member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Joseph Obalski contributed to the profession of mining engineering in Quebec as a Professor at the Polytechnic School of Laval University. His comments below, selected from his official reports to the Québec Government, open a window on the Gaspé oil drilling in his time.

"...The Eastern section of the Gaspé District, which is embraced in the county of Gaspé, is occupied by what is geologically termed the Gaspé series - Gaspé sandstones (Devonian) and limestones (upper Silurian). The existence of petroleum in this region, especially in the neighbourhood of the anticlinals where the limestones come to the surface, has long been recognized..."

"...When I visited the region there were 33 wells completed or in operation. Some of these wells had been sunk to a great depth, the deepest being 3600 feet...oil has been found in greater or lesser quantities in mostly all the wells. In two cases the oil flowed naturally, but since then pumps have had to be used. The last important discovery was made in the summer of 1897, in well No.27. As it was not expected that oil would be found at so slight a depth, no preparations had been made and before the stream could be controlled about 1000 barrels were lost. After tubing the well and connecting it with a tank, it continued to flow in an intermittent manner for some time but after that a pump was put in and three wooden tanks were built, 16 feet in diameter by 12 feet in height and pumping was carried on daily. I was assured that these three tanks had been filled..."

"...At the beginning of June, 1898, during a period of drouth, a fire broke out which was caused by sparks from the boiler furnace

setting fire to the engine house. The fire spread to the derrick and before it could be extinguished, owing to the combustible nature of the surrounding objects, and to a high wind, all the buildings were destroyed, including the tanks. When I visited the spot, about two weeks later, the derrick was being rebuilt and five new wells had been begun in the neighbourhood. At that time about 40 men were employed..."

"...The petroleum obtained in the York River region is a yellowish oil, very clear, with a strong odor of kerosene but without sulphur. It can certainly compare with the best product of Pennsylvania..."

"...The company (CPC) has laid down a line of 2 inch pipes, 11 miles in length, which extends from the district of well #27 to the point where the refinery is to be built on the southern part of Lots I-31 and 32 of Gaspé Bay South, near the York River. The greater part of the machinery and plant for that structure has arrived and it is hoped to have them in operation this summer. The total capacity of the reservoirs will be 25,000 barrels and 250 barrels a day can be refined; but naturally this quantity will be less at the start. An iron tank of 2500 barrels capacity has already been erected on Lot I-31, near the refinery, to receive the oil from the district of #27, and another of 500 barrels has been put up near the same well. There is already at the different wells, in wooden tanks or in barrels, a certain quantity of petroleum, which will be sent to the reservoirs as soon as the pipe line is opened..."

"...Samples of oil from district #27 have been sent to the Paris Exhibition. I append a few analyses showing the quality of the product:

LIGHT GREEN OIL, VERY VOLATILE, FROM DISTRICT #27

Density.....	0.828 at 60.F.
Lighting Point (Abel Test).....	0.F
Light Essences (gasoline, benzine).....	16%
Kerosene.....	41%
Intermediate Products and Heavy Oils.....	40%
Coke (By dry distillation).....	1.36%
Losses.....	1.00%

AMBER OIL FROM DISTRICT #5

Density.....	0.795 at 60.F
Lighting Point.....	20.F
Light Essences.....	21%
Kerosene.....	35%
Lubricating Oils and Paraffine.....	42%
Coke.....	75%
Losses.....	1.00%

"... (1901) Hitherto oil has not been found in paying quantities, but the region has been prospected to the Narrows on the York River, about thirty miles from the sea, where the last well I visited was left unfinished. In the Mississippi district, the few wells that were regularly pumped dry during the year, have constantly shewn a little petroleum and notwithstanding the slightly encouraging results obtained, one cannot help supposing the presence of oil in greater abundance in some part of this district..."

THE END OF THE POT ERA

The last wells of the POT era in Gaspé were drilled in 1902 and in the following year Joseph Obalski reported that though the POT still existed its Directors had turned their interest to the building of a railway in Gaspesia.

On December 30, 1905, at Sheriff's Sale in London, England, the following Gaspé properties of the POT were sold:

- . Beach Lot, Township of York. McConnell's Point on South side, Gaspé Basin.
- . Lots #3 and 9, Range II. York.
- . Lots 30-37 inclusive and Lot 39, Range I, Gaspé Bay South
- . Lot 22, Range III, York.
- . Lots, 5,6,7. Range II, Gaspé Bay South
- . Block 20 - Blanchet Township
- . Blocks 32 and 42 - Galt Township

- . Blocks 38 and 40 - Larocque Township
- . Blocks 44 and 56 - Baillargeon Township
- . Tracts in Range I of Gaspé Bay South were acquired by LeBoutillier and Whalen of Gaspé Harbour.
- . Some 10,000 acres of mining rights in Gaspé Village, York, Gaspé Bay South and Douglas were acquired by an unidentified "English Gentleman".

THE MALBAY WELL

During the years from 1903 to 1913 the search for the elusive commercial quantity of Gaspé petroleum remained in limbo. The men of Gaspé who had acquired skills in that search had to turn to the more traditional Caspesian occupations. "The Golden Goal" remained, however, a lively topic of interest and speculation in Gaspé - kept alive by the conversation of men such as the late Fred. Richmond. But with the exception of the single well drilled on the north side of the Malbay River in 1913 by C.K.B. Carpenter, the search would have to await a new influx of companies and capital in the 1930's. To that story GASPE OF YESTERDAY now turns.

SEARCH RENEWED -FROM 1937 ONWARD

By the mid-1930's it was becoming increasingly evident that the world was moving inexorably towards global conflict and war. The rise of militant dictatorships in Germany and Italy and the military and naval build-up in Japan cast dark shadows over the free world. It was also evident that when war came it would create tremendous demands on the energy supplies of the participants. On land, at sea and in the air the vehicles, ships and planes would be fueled by the output of petroleum wells. It was against this background that the search for petroleum in Gaspé was renewed in the 1930's and continued for another two decades.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW DRILLING CYCLE

A new cast of companies seeking petroleum in Gaspé appeared in the 1930's. In the following summary of their activities they are identified by the abbreviations which follow:-

ADL..... ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT LTD.
 CEG..... LA COMPAGNIE D'EXPLORATION DE GASPE, LTEE.
 CPL..... CONTINENTAL PETROLEUMS LTD.
 GOV..... GASPE OIL VENTURES
 IOL..... IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED
 McM..... ROBERT McMASTER AND SONS
 MPG..... MINERAUX ET PETROLE DE GASPE, LTEE
 POC..... PENINSULAR OIL CORPORATION
 P-F..... PAUL PAYETTE
 QCD..... QUEBEC OIL DEVELOPMENT LTD.

(Note: The reorganized Peninsular Oil Corporation = NPOC)

LOCATION	COMPANY	WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Lot 51 Range I Gaspé Bay North Tp.	MPG	Test	240 ft.	No oil or gas found.
			(1937)	
S.E.Larocque Tp. 3/4 mile E. of S.end of Dartmouth Lake.	CEG	Mississippi #1	5995 ft.	No oil or gas found.
Lot 2 Range II Douglas.Gaspé South	IOL	Haldimand #1	4779 ft.	Used the drilling equipment from Mississippi #1 well No oil or gas. Abandoned 1942.
Block 42 Galt Tp.	CPL	Continental #1	2751 ft.	Well started 1942. Gas at 833 and 2137 ft. Show of oil at 847 and 2424 ft. Abandoned 1948.

LOCATION	COMPANY	WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Block 40 Galt Tp.	CPL	Continental #2	2932 ft.	Began 1944 Small show of oil at 1350 and 2338 ft.
Block 42 Galt Tp.	CPL	Continental- Gaspé #1.	1380 ft.	Began 1948. Adjacent to Continental #1 Show of oil and gas at various levels from 577 ft. Test yield of 22 gals per day -1949.
Sandy Beach Lot A. Range I Douglas Tp.	McM	McMaster (Conant) #1	821 ft.	Clean-out of the old Conant well to 821 ft. Same show of oil and gas. Unable to stop inflow of salt water. Oil entering with salt water. Abandoned 1945
Sandy Beach Lot A. Range I Douglas Tp.	McM	McMaster #2	805 ft.	Sunk just south of Conant well. Small show of oil and gas from 90 to 444 ft. Abandoned 1945.
Holland Tp. 2 miles S.W. York Lake	POC NPOCC	P.C. #1C.	8138 ft.	1945 - 1954 One of deepest wells. Shows of gas and oil at various levels from 700 to 8000 ft. Rig fire damaged 19
Galt Tp. N. Silver Brook area.	GOV	Venture #1	1581 ft.	1947. Show of gas and oil from 1027 ft. Small test flow of oil.

LOCATION	COMPANY	WELL	DEPTH	DETAILS
Fletcher Tp.	1.CPL	1. BALD	6360 ft.	1947-48
Patch Brook	2.ICL	MTN #1		Drilled by CPL to 1830 ft.
		2. IMP.		Deepened by ICL to 6360 "
		GASPE		No gas or oil.
		#1		Plugged - 1950
.....				
Galt Tp.	GOV	Venture	2132 ft.	1947-48
1/2 mile		#2		Show of gas and oil from
S. of Venture				1765 feet. Tools lost
#1				and well abandoned.
.....				
Galt Tp.	GOV	Venture	2399 ft.	1948-50
50 ft. from		#3		Gas from 1970 ft.
Venture #1				Some oil at 2297 ft.
.....				
Joncas Tp.	QOD	Québec	2000 ft.	1949-51
N.W. 1/4		Oil		Abandoned Nov. 1951
		#1		when bailer and tools
				lost in hole.
.....				
Lot H. Range I.	P-P	Tar	7070 ft	1950-1954
Bois Brulé		Point		A private venture by
Douglas Tp.		#1		Paul Payette.
				Show of oil and gas at
				4118 ft.
.....				
Galt Tp.	CPL	Continental	3165 ft.	1951-53
Block 42		Gaspé Deep		Experienced serious
		Test #1		drill problems in 1953.
.....				
Fletcher Tp.	IOL	Bald	6618 ft	1951-57
Patch Brook		Mountain		At 6605 ft. strong gas
		#2		flow -100,000 cubic ft.
				per day at 1400 lbs.per
				sq. in. pressure.

LOCATION	COMPANY	WELL	DEPTH	YEAR	DETAILS
Joncas Tp. N.W. 1/4	QCD	Québec Oil #2	6000 ft	1954	Drilled S. of Well #1
Galt Tp. Block 41	CPL	Asphalt Ease #1	2700 ft.		1953-54 Between drilling seasons 65 gals of oil accumulated in well.
St. Moise Matapedia	Private	Awantjish Well	800 ft.		No oil or gas 1954.
Baillargeon Tp. Block 54	ADL	Causapsca #1	4715 ft	1958	Some gas - no oil.
Baillargeon Tp. Block 54	ADL	Baillargeon #1	3270 ft.		1959. Some gas but no oil.

THE SEARCH CYCLE ENDS

From 1957 the interest of driller for oil shifted from Gaspé to the St. Lawrence Lowlands region of Quebec. Their Gaspé wells were abandoned or left "standing".

In recalling the significant investment of effort and money in the Gaspé search from 1860 to 1960, GASPE OF YESTERDAY must leave open and still unresolved the key question of petroleum resources in Gaspé. The hopes of generations of Gaspeians have been raised only to be dashed by apparent failure. Perhaps, in time, new technology and new search will provide a definitive answer to "THE GOLDEN GOAL" - an answer so elusive to date.
