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## WHY TORRANCE IS REAL OIL FIELD IS EXPLAINED BY EXPERT

Union Oil Co. Official of Long Experience States That Claims of This Section Are Warranted, And Predicts Big Things for the Future.

(The following article is reprinted from the January Bulletin issued by the Union Oil Company of California, and contains facts regarding the Torrance field hitherto unpublished. When this article was published the field was still known as the Redondo field, but has since been officially renamed "Torrance Oil Field." Wherever in the article the name Redondo is used it refers to the Torrance Oil Field.—Ed.)

Sitting in his office in the corner of the Union Oil Company of California's field headquarters at Santa Fe Springs, George Kammerer, superintendent of this division and oil man of over thirty years' experience, made some remarks about the Redondo Beach old field which were considered worthy enough to warrant them being published.

"That Redondo," said Mr. Kammerer, in the slow, easy way he has of speaking, "has put up a hard battle to become an oil field and believe me she is going to win out—has already won out. In fact, while attention has been centered almost exclusively on Santa Fe, Huntington Beach and Signal Hill for the past eight months or more, the very creditable progress made out there beyond Torrance has been completely overlooked. Of course, you have to admit that Redondo has made no such phenomenal records of flush production as the three districts so widely quoted down there. Still, when you consider that the results secured in these fields have made all previous field records for this state appear insignificant by comparison, the steady way they have been going ahead and getting results in the Redondo operations should not be so completely disregarded."

The new Redondo field, by way of geographic explanation, begins on the outskirts of the eastern residential section of Redondo, twenty miles southwest of Los Angeles about ten miles west of the Signal Hill field and six miles northwest of San Pedro. The present proven area extends three miles in a west-southwesterly direction, with a width of over a mile.

Mr. Kammerer was leaning back in his chair scanning the geologist's typewritten sheet summarizing the activities in the Redondo field. "By George," he said, not meaning to be talking to himself, "they're coming ahead fine in Redondo—no joking. Nothing spectacular. Several of the larger companies have been operating there for the past few years, but no oil was discovered until May of last year. The monthly total for that month showed a daily average of 127 barrels for the discovery well, but, instead of bringing the field encouraging public comment, we've gotten so used to four and five-thousand barrel wells that it was treated more in the light of a partial failure.

"The facts are that since that time very good work has been done. Right now, after seven months, there are thirty rigs in the field, and more are planned; 13 are drilling, 5 building or rigging up, 1 deepening, and 11 producing; 7 of the producing wells are flowing, and 4 have to be pumped. The total daily production is approximately 3400 barrels, or about 300 per well. Now, if that's failure I've never been in an oil field. I know they look pretty small when stacked up against the records of Santa Fe or Signal Hill wells, but if you take the actual oil field figures for the past twenty years for this state as a basis, they look mighty fine. For example, the average 1921 daily production for the 10,000 producing California wells was about 33 barrels; the average production for the great Midway-Sunset field, with its 2600 wells on 46,000 proven acres in the San Joaquin Valley, is 37 barrels per well, for the twenty-year old Kern River field of 2100 wells, but slightly over 9 barrels per well. For the Santa Maria field 26 barrels daily. These three fields have between them about 4700 wells, and we always thought they were not bad little oil producers. Now, when you compare Redondo's 300 barrels per well with these figures instead of the almost-gusher marks of the Santa Fe and Signal Hill newcomers, the field looks a whole lot more encouraging."

A feature of the new Redondo field which has impressed Mr. Kammerer very much is its great extent.

Using the properties of Union Oil Company of California as an example, he said,

"We have three wells in the field, Francis Number One—a pumping well—is in the extreme Northwest section, while the Weston Number One is over three miles away, and in the southeast part of the district. As the general direction of the pressure of the oil fields of California, northwest and southeast, the Weston well will, if successful, almost double the proven area. The Weston well and Number Two on the Francis lease, are drilling."

The Redondo district presents no congested acreage suggestive of a pool which is apparently large, but really one liable to sudden decrease in production. Research work and calculations show that the big wells of districts such as Elk Hills have an economic life of from seven years downward, varying with the age of the field when they were brought in, while wells of other fields which come in much less spectacularly have a future life of from two to five times as long. In the Elk Hills district, after the first year of production of a particular well there is left in the ground from 28 to 100 per cent of the total production of the first year, this percentage varying, as has been stated according to the age of the field; in Montebello wells have available future production of from 100 to 180 per cent, in Santa Maria from 100 to 275 per cent, McKittrick from 400 to 1000. The Redondo field, as so far determined, more resembles the McKittrick type of field.

Territory which gives up oil in big quantities at the first is speedily drained and the drilling problem is a case of the devil take the hindmost, but territory from which the oil comes by seepage into the wells is much more stable and production from these low pressure fields is spread over a long term of years.

Redondo's producing wells of the various companies are well scattered, and give rise to the general belief among oil men that once the development is well started Redondo will become one of the largest and longest-lived oil producing areas in this part of the state. The rolling hills and general character of the properties, as well as the varying gravity of the oil produced resemble in many features the characteristics of the Santa Maria field further up the coast.

The Redondo production total for the month of December is expected to show in the neighborhood of 80,000 barrels, a production exceeding that of Watsonville, Summerland, or Whittier fields, and not so much behind the Los Angeles-Salt Lake field. So far, too, not one well has been abandoned in the field, and the drilling and production activity has increased with a steadiness which has done much to overcome the disparaging comment of pessimistic critics. In fact, it seems quite safe to say that after a long period of uncertainty and a considerable share of the difficulties which so often go with oil well development, Redondo will have her oil field and that it will be a large-sized, consistent producing and long-lived district.

### 1922 Was Year of Big Business In Southern California

The oil produced by Los Angeles and Orange counties alone in 1922, aggregating 70,718,820 barrels, would make a river 100 feet wide, 5 feet deep and 168 miles long. The oil produced in the whole state last year would make a river of the same width and depth 317 miles long. California has produced since the day the first well was brought in to the last day of 1922 enough oil to make a river 100 feet wide, 5 feet deep, reaching from New York to Los Angeles and on nearly to San Francisco. There are still other rivers of the crude fluid to be brought to the surface, according to Southern California Business, official magazine of the Los Angeles chamber of commerce.

In Southern California there are 1,048,785 miles of copper wire in daily use, of which 150,000 miles was added last year, according to the same periodical. The wire strung up last year would reach six times around the earth, while the total mileage now in use would extend forty times around the earth. The twenty-three banks of Los Angeles at the close of 1922 had total deposits of \$568,475,350.97, or the equivalent of \$774.70 for each man, woman and child of its 350,000 population. The twenty-three banks of that city alone had a greater aggregate deposit than had the combined 954 banks of Florida, Montana, New Hampshire and Utah, according to the last government report of 1920. Also the Los Angeles banks had a greater aggregate deposit than had combined 1268 banks of the whole states of Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and New



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### Extensive Building Program for 1923

"When the curtain is drawn on the year 1923 I have every reason to believe that we will discover that every record made for construction in the United States has been broken."

This statement was made yesterday by Hurum E. Reeve, the local Winchester dealer, who makes it a part of his business to keep well posted on building conditions not only in this section but throughout the country.

Continuing his opening statement, Mr. Reeve said:

"Nothing denotes the return of industrial prosperity—which also means the prosperity of the nation—any more than the continuation and enlargement of the building program begun one year ago. The housing shortage caused by the curtailment of building operations during the war still exists and despite the fact that building operations in 1922 exceeded those of any other year by more than \$1,000,000,000 experienced observers are of the opinion that the figures this year will be considerably above those of last year.

"There is one little hitch in this program, however. The building construction industry has reached a point where it can go no faster than men can be supplied to assemble materials that go to make up a building. In New York and other important centers the shortage of laborers and skilled mechanics is of considerable importance. This condition may work itself out, and everyone hopes that it will.

"We notice new buildings going up all around us but very few people give a thought to the outlay in money of this construction work, so these figures will prove startling to many. Conservative figures of

1922 place the construction activities at \$3,541,055,000, of which more than one billion dollars was for homes. In 1919 national building construction figures averaged \$49,613,000 each week of the year. In 1920 the average was \$48,716,000. The weekly average for the first quarter in 1921 was \$29,000,000; the second quarter, \$53,000,000; the third, \$52,000,000, and the fourth \$48,600,000. Then came the boom. The weekly average for the first quarter in 1922 was \$50,000,000; the second quarter, \$82,000,000; the third quarter \$70,000,000, and the fourth quarter around \$69,000,000. The final quarter is usually the poorest for the building trades. Eighty thousand (80,000) buildings were constructed in 1920; 110,000 buildings in 1921, and 160,000 in 1922.

"In Los Angeles, a house was finished every 20 minutes. The buildings completed in that city in 1922, if placed on 50-foot lots, would make a street 190 miles long built solid on both sides. One hundred forty-five thousand persons are employed in this work in Los Angeles. This will give one an idea of the great number of persons who are engaged in actual construction work. These men require a lot of hammers, chisels, and such other tools. You can figure it out as well as I can, the vast number of locks, bolts and other lines of builders' hardware that are needed in the finished product.

"It looks like a big year."

America appears to be a country bounded on the north by Canada and hounded on the east by sea-going bootleggers.

Fewer men would have axes to grind if they had to furnish the motive power for turning the grindstone.

Here is a health hint for our readers: Watch out for trains this winter while hunting coal along the railroad tracks.

We see where one Alabama man sold another Alabama man an interest in a queen bee for \$150. Wonder which one got stung.

Maybe they have Thanksgiving right after election, so we can give thanks the men we elected are no worse than they are.

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