

MEMORANDUMALLEGED OIL OCCURRENCE AT REDPA

On May 5th, 1948, I proceeded to Redpa to examine the area in which C. Burt Senr. of West Kentish believes oil may be found. As mentioned in a previous memorandum Burt bases his belief on the sounds heard in wells which were sunk and soon after filled in again some twenty years ago.

The area concerned is occupied by basaltic rocks which have weathered to a fair depth of soil. Pleistocene alluvium has been deposited in small patches near at hand. The closest stratified rocks seen at the surface are limestones and dolomites which outcrop about a mile to the East. Thus as far as the geological evidence is concerned, although the dolomite may be considered a potential oil bearing rock and the basalt an impervious cover rock there is nothing to show this is so.

In considering Burt's contention that the noise he heard - like the rushing and thumping of water - was analogous to that heard in Rumanian wells, caution must be used. It is dangerous to compare a sound heard twenty or more years ago with a description of a sound read in a magazine. The noise in the Rumanian Fields is probably caused by the pressure of natural gas, but the cause of the noise heard in wells at Redpa can only be surmised. In the absence of any evidence of natural gas, some other reason must be sought. A possible explanation is that the basalt covers limestone beds in which an underground stream flows and it is the noise of this, greatly magnified in the confined space of the well, which C. Burt and others have heard.

Thus there is no concrete evidence; no oil seepages; no asphalt deposits; no mud volcanoes, etc., to indicate oil; no structural control such as anticlines can be seen, and although the rock types are not absolutely unfavourable there is nothing to suggest that they are oil bearing.

Sgd. Terence D. Hughes

GEOLOGIST

Director of Mines.