OIL POSSIBILITIES

Stranded Coastal Bitumen:

The most important oil indication in the offshore basin is considered to be that of the stranded bitumen. It was known as far back as the 1830's and has been reported scattered over a large area westward from Otway Peninsula. However, it appears to be most prolific in the neighbourhood of Beachport. It is dominantly asphaltic and is found in various states of oxidation, from fresh smelling and soft, to old and rubbery.

In the past, the occurrence of this bitumen has not been taken too seriously, has even been disclaimed by some, due perhaps to the lack of a satisfactory explanation for its liberation from the source carrier-bed and migration upward to the ocean floor. Now, however, the occurrence has taken on new significance since the seismic profiles extending over the continental slope show that the steeply north-dipping Mesozoic beds have been bevelled by erosion and are in direct contact with the ocean floor. (Text Fig. 24 and SS-23, Fig. 19).

Hydrocarbons from Wells:

Minor showings such as fluorescence, oil cuts, solid bitumen and gas puffs, mostly from the Otway Group, are recorded in a number of wells. (Well Data Chart, Fig. 23). Significant showings are limited to three wells:

Port Campbell No. 1:

Waarre Formation just above the Otway. Tested 4. 2 million cu. ft. /day gas with condensate. During production tests, pressures and rate of flow dropped rapidly, accompanied by water.

Port Campbell No. 4:

Upper Otway. Tested at rate of 2 million cu. ft. /day plus 1 barrel oil 46^{o} API.