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NO STAMPEDE FORT NORMAN

So Says Transportation Man Visiting in Prince George.

TWO COMPANIES ARE OPERATING AT SCENE

Charles Millar, president of the Alberta and Arctic Transportation Company, operating a fleet of steamers from Peace River and Fort McMurray to the Fort Norman oil field, as well as a line of boats to Hudson's Hope in British Columbia has arrived in the city says the Prince George Citizen.

Mr. Millar is fresh from the scene of the oil excitement in the far north, and being a man who is not easily stampeded, his impressions of the new oil district have more than piqued interest. In discussing the Fort Norman field Mr. Millar said it would take another year to definitely ascertain whether the field would amount to anything in a commercial way or not. At the present time there is only one well down. The hole has been capped for some time, but from the indications it was a gusher of considerable size when the oil was struck, everything in the vicinity of the well having been covered with oil. When he visited the well Mr. Millar said there was a small gas pressure of about 50 pounds, and when the valve was opened there was a strong flow of oil from a two-inch pipe, but he would not hazard a guess as to what the flow would be if the oil was being drawn off steadily. The grade of the oil was admittedly very high as it was found necessary to take out the gasoline content before attempting to use it as fuel.

To Sink More Holes.
The Imperial Oil Company is the owner of the well and is carrying on operations with a crew of about forty men. During the coming winter the company will sink two or three more holes about five miles from the present well and the result of their

a card in a merchant's show-window reads "Don't go elsewhere to be cheated, buy here. Our advice is—Don't be cheated at all. Smoke well's pipe."

winter operations will have an important bearing on the future development of the district.

The Imperial company has a strong competitor, a Toronto concern of which a Mr. Shepard is the head. It is generally known the manager of the Fort Norman Company has no special knowledge of the oil business, but he is very prominent in eastern Canadian financial circles, and has gathered around him some of the best oil men for the work he has in hand. This company commenced sinking a hole some time ago and expects to get oil during August, or by September at the latest. There is not the slightest doubt but what the company will have the second well in the district. The Fort Norman company is already an extensive holder of oil lands, having bought out a number of locators and has the equipment now on the ground for a comprehensive winter campaign, including the casing for two additional wells. As soon as the drilling rig can be spared from the hole now being bored it will be moved over to other locations that have been selected and the work of demonstrating the district will go steadily on.

No Stampeds There.
Mr. Millar says there is nothing in the nature of a stampede into the country, and he was not impressed with an unusual number of men being in the country. The passport system adopted by the federal authorities may be responsible in a measure for this condition as any man in the country may be called upon by the police to produce his papers. Just what would happen in the event of his being unable to produce them Mr. Miller was not in a position to say. The oil accommodation in the coun-

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Constance Binney in "Something Different"
Snub Pollard Comedy, "Cash Customer"
Topics of the Day

try did not amount to much and the work of deporting men would be tedious and expensive. But the system has no doubt kept a considerable number of men out.

Conditions Not Good.
Conditions generally throughout the field can hardly be considered as satisfactory, but between now and next summer they may be considerably improved if the worth of the district makes it an object. The chief trouble lies in the fact that the early locations at Fort Norman were made under Arctic conditions by lantern light and in the snow and ice. The Dominion regulations governing the location of oil lands require the planting of a corner post and, if the country is wooded, the blazing of a line from one corner of the location to the other, and if the location is made in an open country the locator is required to plant his post and show his boundary lines by the erection of monuments of some kind. The regulations do not fit the Norman field very well, more especially if the locations are to be made in the winter.

Regulations Evaded.
The present situation is that most of the evidences of location of the earlier claims have commenced their journey to the Arctic with the movement of the ice and snow. It is now freely stated the provisions of the regulations with respect to staking were not complied with in many cases. It can doubtless be successfully maintained that the physical features of the country were such that the regulations could not be met, but it will remain to be seen if this would be a good defence should anyone decide to test the legality of a claim located in this manner by jumping it.

One factor which will have a tendency to minimize any general jumping is the consolidation which has taken place in the holdings of the Imperial and Fort Norman companies. The two companies are by far the largest holders in the field, and there is little prospect of either of them contesting the other's holdings.

Not As Hopeless as That.
He—I could dance on like this forever.
She—Oh, I'm sure you don't mean it! You're bound to improve.—The Fun Book.

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