



FOR SALVAGE

With silver towers aimed at the sky the new crude oil stabilization plant at Basile, La., enables oil men to salvage valuable gases from petroleum which formerly were lost. It is estimated that \$100,000,000 annually could be saved by the nation-wide adoption of similar equipment.

CHEMISTRY

Lost Vapors Captured To Conserve Oil Resources

HARD-FISTED oil men looking for ways to earn more dollars and the more visionary people who rightly worry about the future oil and natural gas resources of the country can alike enjoy a new type of oil stabilization and gasoline recovery plant just opened at Basile, La.

Adoption of the equipment throughout the nation would result in \$100,000,000 annual economies, it is estimated. And with a single further stage of equipment the plant will soon be ready to put back into the earth the vast wastage of gas and light volatile petroleum vapors which hitherto have been considered a regrettable but unavoidable loss whenever an oil well was drilled and opened up.

Millions of dollars in the petroleum industry, it is pointed out by oil men, change hands on the measurement, or gauging, of oil. Previously and still widely today this measurement is done at atmospheric pressure and continu-

ally the lighter, gaseous elements of crude petroleum evaporate into the air and are lost. Somebody, somewhere along the line from the well to the final purchaser, has to pay for this loss.

Equipment already installed automatically measures the gases and fluids which come off from the well, processes the volatile vapors and is recovering in the form of gasoline about 60 per cent of those petroleum products which formerly were lost in gauging in tanks at atmospheric pressure, either at the well or in transit.

Under the new arrangement the previous setup of separate tanks and separators at each well is now abandoned. Each production well has its contents piped to a central plant where, under pressure, the gas and oil content is measured. This metering system is the basis for royalty payments.

At the central plant, following measurement, the gas and oil are put into a common pipe system and kept

under pressure until the lighter vapors are recovered from the crude oil. Analyses of the sample taken from the individual separators is checked against the output of this central recovery plant to provide an oil audit for the owners of each lease.

The crude oil, thus stabilized by the removal of its more volatile portions, is ready for shipment with little further evaporation loss. Previously such loss was estimated as 18 per cent of the gross production.

In areas where there is no market for natural gas recovered by the new process an additional apparatus can be attached and the gas piped back under pressure into its original "home" in the well. The plant is operated by the Continental Oil Company.

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letter name that a German scholar made up for this particular Mayan god. Mr. Whorf has not yet discovered how this god's name was pronounced in Mayan.

From the Mayan book in Dresden, Germany, he offered this sample of Mayan song: "The lightning monster with the vessel of the rain destroys."

Pictures beneath each line show the events told of, he explained, but the translation does not depend on the pictures, or appearance of the characters, but solely on the way the characters are put together, which is to spell the words of these Mayan sentences.

Beyond illustrative examples, this man who is ambitious to read the Mayan "classics" is not yet ready to read the Mayan books publicly.

"There is much work to be done," he says, "before the language can be regarded as fully understood. Hundreds of signs remain to be deciphered. And I feel the time has not come to tell more about the contents of the books as they are unfolding themselves."

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