

DEPT. NAT. RES & ENV  
  
PE906783

WELL ELEMENTARY  
REPORT

S.A. OIL WELLS

MOUTAJUP-1

W336

PE904035

This is an enclosure indicator page.  
The enclosure PE904035 is enclosed within the  
container PE906783 at this location in this  
document.

The enclosure PE904035 has the following characteristics:

ITEM\_BARCODE = PE904035  
CONTAINER\_BARCODE = PE906783  
    NAME = Well card  
    BASIN = OTWAY  
    PERMIT =  
    TYPE = WELL  
    SUBTYPE = WELL\_CARD  
DESCRIPTION = Well Card, South Australian Oil Wells  
              No.1, Section 121, (enclosure from Well  
              Elementary) for Moutajup-1  
REMARKS =  
DATE\_CREATED = 30/11/21  
DATE\_RECEIVED =  
    W\_NO = W336  
    WELL\_NAME = South Australian Oil Wells Moutajup-1  
    CONTRACTOR = South Australian Oil Wells No.1  
    CLIENT\_OP\_CO = Sth Australian Oil Wells Co. NL.

(Inserted by DNRE - Vic Govt Mines Dept)

August:- The Commonwealth Government offer for oil in payable quantities attracted attention, and ~~and~~ it was stated in August, 1921, that in a shallow bore near Moutajup, a small township on the railway line between Dunkeld and Hamilton in Western Victoria, ~~that~~ petroleum had been found. This was referred to by Mr. H. C. Dod, B.Sc., who, in a report to the Directors on the South Australian Oil Wells Company, recommended the exercising of an option over the holdings of the Western District Oil Syndicate, with the object of immediately developing the area. The Directors adopted his recommendation, and secured leases to the extent of 5,000 acres in the vicinity. ~~and~~ [When boring for water about 1910, a contractor observed indications of "oil." Nothing was done until 1921, when a syndicate was formed and the matter was brought under the notice of the South Australian Oil Wells Company who secured an option over the leases. A bore which had reached a depth of 175 feet was ~~deepened~~ deepened. Samples of the material from the bore were tested in the field and it was reported that positive petroleum results were obtained. Mr. Dod stated ~~that~~ that the work already done had proved "the presence of thick beds of carbonaceous shale containing all the organic matter necessary for the formation of oil in quantity, also the proper series of strata favorable to the concentration of oil. The ground consists of alternating sands, clays, and shales covered by thick layer of basalt." "The basalt and layers of clay," he asserts, "account for the absence of surface indications and the presence of oil sand containing visible oil in small percentage was only proved by chance while boring for water." Reports received in Melbourne at the end of July that "oil had been discovered" led to speculation in South Australian Oil Wells shares, which rose from 18d. on 19th July to 12/- on the 10th August. On the receipt of Dod's report, however, share values declined sharply to 9/-. The following day, 11th August, 1921, Mr. Barnes, Minister for Mines, said ~~when~~ when commenting upon the claim that petroleum had been discovered at Moutajup "that he would advise the public to exercise caution. The Mines Department, he explained,

did not wish to damp the ardour of oil searchers or to force its <sup>views</sup> upon those who thought their knowledge was superior to that of the geological staff, but he would urge that those who claimed to have discovered free mineral oil and to be in possession of samples should submit them for test to Commonwealth or State Government analysts."

A Company, the Moutajup Oil Wells, N.L., was formed in September, 1921; the legal Manager was Mr. H. E. Connolly, and boring operations were commenced on Mt. Sturgeon Estate. The South Australian Oil Wells Company was interested in the <sup>adjoining</sup> area, and the drilling was carried out by the Goldfields Diamond Drilling Company. Huts ~~was~~ for the men, an office, and a laboratory were erected.

Mr. Charles <sup>McLennan</sup> ~~McLellan~~, the discoverer of the oil indications, was the Field Superintendent of Moutajup Oil Wells Company.

Another Company, the Jennawarra Oil Wells, 40,000 shares at 5/- each, was formed to test a large area of country adjacent to the South Australian Oil Wells and Moutajup Oil Wells holdings at Moutajup. This property was reported on by Mr. <sup>McLennan</sup> ~~McLellan~~, and the prospectus set out that "immediately on the formation of the company, a site would be chosen for a bore." By the beginning of November, 1921, ~~four companies~~ <sup>companies</sup>, the Moutajup, South Australian, and Jennawarra, had been formed, while the Rockefeller Oil Wells and the Meudell Standard Oil Wells were being floated to prospect on properties adjacent to that of the South Australian Oil Wells. A rotary plant, capable of drilling to a depth of 4,000 feet, was to be used.

Another Company, the Boonah <sup>Wah</sup> Oil Wells N.L. located at Moutajup was floated with a capital of £10,000 <sup>in</sup> and 40,000 shares at 5/-. Twenty-five thousand of these shares <sup>were</sup> issued to the public at 6d. per share on application. The company was formed to acquire <sup>boring</sup> ~~options~~ options over property ~~near~~ Moutajup in the vicinity of the bores being operated by the South Australian Oil Wells, the Moutajup Oil Wells, and the Jennawarra Oil Wells Companies, where discoveries of petroleum have been reported over a wide area.

20 JUL 1984

OIL and GAS DIVISION

on the field, and vouched for the presence of petroleum, and stated that had similar indications been proven in a new district in California a drilling boom would have followed. Already all the chief features of successful oil fields have been proved to exist at Moutajup.... Brine springs so common on many oil fields occur at Moutajup. The proximity of the Grampians is an interesting feature of the field, inasmuch as the chief oil fields of the world are to be found flanking the great mountain ranges. The location of the Moutajup field for economic development is excellent, being in close proximity to Portland with its wonderful harbour affording easy access to the markets of the neighbouring States. Immediately on the formation of the company, a site will be chosen for a bore, so that progress may be co-incident with developments in the apparent venture."

On the 22nd November, 1921, the Directors of the Moutajup Oil Wells received a telegram from the Field Superintendent, stating that there was a good show of oil in the bore at 153 feet, and asking that a geologist be sent to make an examination of the occurrence. On the 26th November, Mr. Stanley Hunter reported as under:

"BORING AT MOUTAJUP

PARISH OF JENNAWARRA

by Stanley Hunter, Engineer for Boring.

"The country in the neighbourhood of the Moutajup bore consists of almost flat basaltic plains underlying which are strata ~~consist of~~ somewhat similar to those proved south of Rokewood and Pitfield consisting of clays and sands, occasionally containing in the upper portions small quantities of ligneous material, probably derived from swamp beds or drift vegetation. The sub-artesian water level in this district ranges from a few to about 60 feet ~~at~~ from surface and there is but little doubt that the whole of the Tertiary formation here is waterlogged and analogous to the deep lead areas in other parts of Victoria. The bedrock here will almost certainly consist of Ordovician slates & sandstones containing small quartz & calcite veins & should be struck at

about 300 feet from the surface. The foregoing strata are under existing geological conditions wholly unfavourable for oil prospecting.

"On arriving at the borehole baling operations were commenced. The baler consisted of an open iron tube about 4" in diameter with a retention valve at the lower end and holding about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  gallons. This was sunk to the bottom of the hole and raised and lowered about a foot in jerks to induce the bottom sands into the baler. On raising and emptying into a wooden tub a few small films of oily substance were observed to rise to the surface; these varied from a mere wisp to round and oval films the size of a shilling and usually four or five were counted at each baling. I collected a number of films from five bailings for test purposes.

"Assuming that baling is carried out at intervals during any one day for say a total of four hours, about 60 balings would be completed, giving a total of approximately 210 gallons of ~~oil~~ which nearly a quarter would be sand. Allowing the average number of films at each baling as five and the area of each film as one square inch, then one single drop of natural or crude oil such as would fall from a vertically held lead pencil, the end of which had been dipped for one inch in the oil, would be sufficient to produce all the oil films obtained from such bailings in the four hours mentioned above.

"The statements, therefore, which appeared in the 'Age' of the 23rd and 24th inst. respectively that there "was a good show of oil in the bore at 153 feet" and "Directors visited well with expert, oil unmistakably present in steadily increasing quantities" are not in accord with facts as observed by me. No precautions appear to be taken to prevent oil from the oil engine on boring plant getting into the bore or on to the cable attached to baler, and it would be a most extraordinary thing if some oil from the plant did not, under present working methods, get into the borehole. So small is the amount of oil necessary to produce a large film on water that a mere suspicion of oil in the driller's hands when handling the baler and cable would be sufficient to create quite a number of

films such as were observed. I am compelled, therefore, to conclude that the oil reported as being obtained from the bore is the result of accidental inclusion of lubricating oil through insufficient precaution on the part of the drillers.

"I suggest that this report be made available to the press and that the investing public be invited to confer with this department prior to buying any oil company shares in the State."

~~The Company, on the receipt of Hunter~~

*N<sup>o</sup> 953-405/21 submitted by Stanley Hunter*

Three samples were tested at the Laboratory. One con-

W337 sisted of Ordovician bedrock (slate and sandstone containing quartz  
W338 and calcite from bores 1A and 2 of the South Australian Oil Wells.  
Two samples of black cemented sand from <sup>140 ft and 158 ft in</sup> bore No. 1 of the Moutajup  
W336 Oil Company gave no oil.

31 Queen Street,  
Melbourne,

5th November, 1921.

The Minister for Mines,  
Mines Department,  
MELBOURNE.

MOUTAJUP - 1, - 1A, - 2

Dear Sir,

Re Application for Federal Bonus

Further to my letter of the 6th of October last, I append report on boring for period ended 2nd November, 1921.

W336

No. 1 bore, on sec. 121, Parish Moutajup, was deepened from 175 to 185 feet and then left as a water well. Five inch casing to 177 feet in coarse sand. Very fair and potable water in good quantity.

W337

No. 1 A bore, sec. 121, is 60 yards S.W. of No. 1. Started it with 8" casing on 17th October and "landed" this casing at 134 feet in brown coal and clay on 2nd November.

Water at 65 feet, fresh and increasing in quantity as bore is deepened. Oil films first seen on water from 95 feet, continuing to 117 feet and then again and stronger in dark sand from 123 to 126.

<u>Log</u>	0'	-	2'	Sandy soil
	2'	-	60'	Basalt decomposed in spots to clay
	60'	-	123'	Sand, red, yellow, cream
	123'	-	131' 6"	Sand, brownish, darkening
	131' 6"	-	134' 6"	Lignite with clay streaks
	134' 6"	-	136'	Sand, blackened by coal, dust and clay

W338

No. 2 bore, on sec. 115, Parish Moutajup, County of Dundas, Vic. begun on October 3rd. One shift.

<u>Log</u>	0'	-	3'	Black soil
	3'	-	39'	Basalt, hard
	39'	-	168'	Sand, various colors with clay slurry increasing.
	168'	-	172'	Clay, sandy brown
	172'	-	180'	Sand, brownish
	180'	-	182'	Sandstone, hard, gray, fine grained
	182'	-	185'	Clay, brown sandy
	185'	-	190'	Sand, gray
	190'	-	208'	Gravel and sand, coarse
	208'	-	211'	Sandstone
	211'	-	220'	Sand and gravel
	220'	-	222'	Sandstone and tuff with many fossils of shells and corals. (Tertiary age)

Used 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " casing to 222 feet. ~~Now~~ Now trying to shut off water to test last sandstone for oil as films were very strong therefrom.

Water at 74 (poor) 174 (good supply of pure water) and again in sand and gravel to 208'.

Oil films seen at 90 feet, 110 feet, 164 to 172, 182, 185, 220 to 222, the last being best.

Gas bubbles at 90 feet, 167 feet.

Yours faithfully,



LOGS OF BORES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OIL WELLS.

Anglesea Bores, p. 131 -

No. 1 Bore, Sec. XIII, Parish Angahook, near Anglesea River -

39' - 186' Black carbonaceous mudstone  
 274' - 282' Brown coal  
 301' - 312' Brown coal  
 418' - 429' Brown coal  
 455' - 462' Coarse sand.

No. 2 Bore, Noble Lease, 46 ch. west of No. 1 and 250 ft. higher, p.134

105' - 300' Black mudstone  
 366' - 439' Brown clay; beds of fossil shells  
 580' - 582' Brown coal  
 736' - 741' Brown coal  
 742' Whitish clay.

*Juanetta ganes*  
*first record in*  
*Turritella*

*Jangukian*  
*Lower Jangukian*  
*F. Takahama*

Moutajup -

SAOW Moutajup

No. 8 Bore, Allot. 3B, Sec. C, Parish Jennawarra - 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

W344

16' - 201' Basalt  
 231' - 262' Tertiary shells  
 272' Bedrock (Ordovician)

No. 7 Bore, Allot 8, Sec. 14, Parish of Warrayure (North) -

W343

4' - 124' Basalt  
 6" lignite at 135'  
 143' Blue shale with quartz veins.

No. 6 Bore, p. 130, on Allot. 3, Sec. XX, Parish Warrayure -

W342

6' - 154' Basalt  
 195' - 225' Limestone mass of shells toward base.  
 225' - 236' Pale blue shale; bedrock ?.

No. 5 Bore, Allot. 1, Sec. 9, Parish Jennawarra, opposite Moutajup Oil Wells No. 1 bore -

W341

8' - 18' Basalt  
 sand to 36' pulled casing.. water bore.

No. 4 Bore - *See next page*

W340

213' - 216' shell fragments upper Tertiary  
 260' - 283' Blue shales with quartz.

No. 3 Bore - *See next page*

W339

222' - 228' Mud  
 228' - 239' Quartzite

South Australian Oil Wells -

No. 1 Bore, Sec. 121, Parish Moutajup -  
 to 165 feet in coarse sand.

W336

No. 1a, 60 yards southwest of No. 1, Elevation 785 feet -

W337

2' - 60' Basalt  
 131' - 134' 6" Lignite  
 217' - 430' Blue shale Bedrock?  
 430' - 504' Pale blue shale, Stopped at 504 feet.

This letter was held over until the return to office of the Minister.

SAOW MOUTAJUP  
No 1 No 1A, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

-----  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OIL WELLS

Covering work done at Moutajup to January 31st, 1922.

- W336 No. 1 Bore: Water well. Sanded up so pulled all casing and abandoned.
- W337 No. 1 A: Cement set well, but did not shut off water. Left 5" casing to 327 feet cemented. Now pulling out 8" and 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " casing.
- W338 No. 2: Water well.
- W339 No. 3: Log - 222-228 Sand soft and white with hard layers; 228-239 Quartzite grey and hard; cementing failed. Pulled 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " casing and put in 200 feet of 5" pipe. Left hole as a water well.
- W340 No. 4: 66-213 ft. - sand and gravel;  
213-216 ft. - Calcareous sand with shell fragments. (Upper Tertiary)  
216-223 Sandstone grey and hard;  
223-230 Sand fine white cemented by pale blue clay;  
230-256 Shale pale blue.  
256-260 Sandstone white and hard;  
260-283 Shale blue with quartz inclusions, also layers of fine blue sandstone.
- Left 222 ft. of 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " casing in the bore for a water well. Water at 90 ft. and 214 ft.; a large supply at latter level. Oil films 123 ft. onward to 216 ft. patchy. Gas bubbles 123 to 230 ft. patchy.
- W341 No. 5: On allotment 1 of section 9, Parish of Jannawarra. Owner N. Young.
- Log - 0-3 ft. sandy soil;  
3-4 $\frac{1}{2}$  gravel  
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -8 Clay buff, soft  
8-18 Basalt decomposed  
18-34 Sand, hard and then soft  
34-35 Sand bar cemented by iron oxide  
35-36 Soft sand

Follow P. 61

W336

W337

W338

W339

W340

W341

124

S.A.O.W. Moutajup  
1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, No. 52

16th January, 1945.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OIL WELLS COMPANY

Covering work done to 28th February, 1922.

W336	No. 1 Bore, Moutajup	-	Abandoned.
W337	1A " "	-	Water well, 327' of 5" casing left in cemented.
W338	2 " "	-	Water well
W339	3 " "	-	Water well
W340	4 " "	-	Water well
W341	5 " "	-	Abandoned
W342	6 " "	-	

Log Contd.

80' - 154' .. Basalt

N<sup>o</sup> 6 Bore  
154' - 163' .. Fine white sand

163' - 188' .. hard blue sand

W342  
188' - 195' .. Fine grey sand

195' - 225' .. Limestone grey granular, becoming a mass of shells towards the base.

225' - 236' .. Shale, pale blue, mudstone becoming darker. Veins of calcite, black scum on mud and a little gas.

Remarks: No oil. Pulled casing, left 30' of 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ " in at top for a water well. Fine supply of water from 194' and onwards.

No. 7 Bore, Moutajup; on ~~663300~~ Allotment 8 of Section 14, Warrayure Parish; owner E. B. Noske.

Log:

W343  
0' - 1' 6" .. soil, dark

1' 6" - 4' .. Clay, yellow

4' - 17' .. Clay and decomposed basalt

17' - 124' @@ .. Basalt, hard

124' - 140' .. Sand, fine brown. 6" lignite at 135'.

140' - 143' .. Clay, blue

143' - 175' .. Shale, dark blue with quartz veins.

Remarks: Water at 24' (sub-artesian, strong) and at 113'.@@ No oil. Pulled casing; left as a water well.

South Australian Oil Wells.

W336

No 1 & No 1A

No 1.

Spudded. 3 October 1921

El.

T.D. 185'

Carded

Ph. Montajup

Abandoned. Nov. 1921

Left as water well, fair & potable water in good quantity.

Location. Section 121. Ph. Montajup

Casing 5" to 177' in coarse sand.

(Taken over from Western District Oil Synd. & deepened to 185')

No 1A

W337

Spudded 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1921

El. 785'

Abandoned Dec. 1921

T.D. 504.

Carded

Location. Sec. 121 Ph. Montajup 60 yds. S.W. of No 1

Casing

8" to 134'. 6 5/8" (17 1/2) to 231'  
5" (11 1/2) cemented at 327'. shale

Will be tested as gas well when cement is set on 5" casing. Cement set but did not shut off water, left 5" casing, pulled out 8" + 6 3/8" casing.

Sandy soil 0 - 2'

Basalt 2 - 60

Sand, red, yellow, cream 60' - 123'

Sand, brown, dark. 123 - 131' 6"

Lignite w/ clay streaks 131' 6" - 134' 6"

Sand, black, & clay 134' 6" - 136'

Dark sand w/ traces of oil (proved by ether test.) 136' - 167'

Sand, tan 167' - 167' 6"

Dark clay. 167' 6" - 168'

Sand, & gravel brown to yellow, (w/ good water) 168' - 209'

clay, dark brown, sdy. w/ layers concrete to 209 - 217'

Shale, blue, w/ thin layers hard blue ss. Calcrete seams from 263' onwards. Much black scum on mud w/ traces of light oil at times 217' - 430'

Water at 65'. fresh & increasing in quantity with depth Card

Shale, paler blue, shattered at times & filled with calcrete (probably Jurassic)  
Scum as above. Inflammable gas occurs all through the shale, increasing with depth. Oily films frequent 430 - 504. T.D.