

ALBERT EDWARD THE WILDCATTER OF THE OILFIELD

EWSPAPER readers have lat- thousands of acres around his proposed 25 years ago and are still producing dians, although at a later period the was pouring forth a veritable flood of a transporter of petroleum by boat terly been made familiar with test well, agreeing to give the owners several barrels a day. any number of strange terms of the land one-eighth of the oil pro-The first wildcatter was Colonel Ed-The first wildcatter was Colonel Edopment of the oilfields of Cal-opment of the oilfield of the oil springs and beard of the oild spring beard of the o ifornia and Texas. "Wild- his well proves to be a good one. When oil pits near Titusville, Pa., and began Daillon described in 1627 as "a good 30,009 barrels a day, which gave them Greenbacker and veteran of 37 years" ifornia and Texas. "Wild-catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters" and "wildcat wells" are fre-colonel Guffey drilled his big gusher drilling a well on Watson's flats, below catters a day, which gate the quently referred to in correspondence which began producing oil at the rate Tituzville, in May, 1859. Professor B. tonontons." This oil came from the oil alone of about \$18,000 a day, or \$126,000 way, another Canadian, who during 40 guently referred to in correspondence from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which began producing oil at the rate from the oil regions, in which some per-sons are making billions and many more are making nothing but future trouble for themselves. The wildcatter of the oil business is the enterprising and venturesome indi-vidual who puts down a well in abso-vidual who puts down a well in abso-

A famous wildcatter in his day was a little oil and rivers of water. Mr best social elements in England. Crocker declared that the water could To take a few examples, the list natwere used for such a purpose. Since MacCormac and so on. then countless wells have been torpedoed with nitroglycerin. The explosion



AS A CLUBMAN

one, and in the ordinary way a man would expect to have his fate decided the late Frederick Crocker of Olean, N. within a couple of years. There are Y, one of the pioneer oll producers of about 600 members, each of whom pays the Oll Creek, Bradford and Allegany an entrance fee of \$150 and an annual fields. When he struck the famous Ir-win well, near Pioneer, Pa., it produced and purposes the club is made up of the

be pumped off and that oil would then urally includes the Duke of Cornwall come. For three months he pumped and York, the Duke of Connaught, water out of the well, and people Prince Louis of Battenberg and the thought him almost crazy, but the wa- Duke of Fife. Then among reigning ter was finally exhausted, and oil came monarchs there are the king of the Belin large quantities. On the McElheny glans, Oscar II, and King George of farm, near Funkville, Pa., Mr. Crocker, Greece. There are courtiers like Lord hoping to make new openings in the oil Carrington, soldiers and sailors like bearing rock, exploded a large quantity Earl Roberts and Sir Michael Culmeof gunpowder in a well. This was un- Seymour, diplomatists like Lord Crodoubtedly the first time that explosives mer, professional men like Sir William

The rooms in the club are furnished without any attempt at display. You enter a narrow corridor which scarcely deserves to be called a hall, and on the right hand a door leads into a lounge. Behind this is a delightful billfard room, with a couple of excellent tables and a whole armory of cues. Round two sides of the room is a raised bench, upholstered in the finest green morocco leather in the severely plain but comfortable style which the king prefers. Above is a long, narrow dining room, which can be made to seat 70 comfortably, although it does not often happen that there are more than 50 at table, and of these some are the guests of members. Of all this the royal clubman made use as unostentatiously as any private member, and it is because of this that he delighted to spend an hour or two within the walls of the club toward the end of the day whenever he was in town. Upon going into a room the members continued their occupation of reading the newspaper or chatting with one another or dozing comfortably before the fire. If the prince in his genial way called out as he passed, "How do you do, A ---- ?" or "Good evening, B----," they would reply without leaving their seate and most of the on terms of sufficient intimacy to say "sir" instead of "your royal highness." because ne neves The king greatly appreciated the freedom from ceremony which this interest-



vidual who puts down a weil in abso-jutely new territory where petroleum has not been discovered and either has not been discovered and either has not been discovered and either wells used of state with a very large that colonel brake stated the hist well iss, before brake stated on a few weeks dwindle to sunk for the specific purpose of procur- of barrels taken from salt wells at Ta- found in paying quantities. They were ed 13 unsuccessful wells before fortune him and who recently owning crude petroleum. Drake drove an renium, Pa., were sold for \$40 a barrel, willing to drill in any state in the Un- smiled upon him and who recently owniron pipe down 36 feet to bedrock, then and owing to the great scarcity-but ion a hundred miles or a thousand ed 800 oil and gas wells in the Bradford understood that no one would have had



the other lacked it.

holes are far more numerous than the

gushers" and even than the wells where oil is found in small quantities. For this reason putting down wildcat wells as a general practice is certain to

be either very profitable or very disas-

rous. Many men fail, but now and

then some shrewd and lucky producer,

like Colonel J. M. Guffey, the most

successful wildcatter in the world and

the discoverer of the mighty Lucas gusher in southeastern Texas, strikes a

big well and makes a fortune. The very

financial hazard of the business. It is

"a hundred to one shot," to use a race

track simile, with from \$5,000 to \$10,000

as the wager that the well will be a

This does not mean, however, that the

wildcatter is a harebrained enthusiast

who puts a well down anywhere and simply trusts to luck. Before he sinks

the well he has looked up the geological

data pertinent to the situation and has

it figured out that the oil belt he ex-

pects to tap connects with an ollfield

hundred or several hundred miles dis-

tant. He knows that he is taking a big

good one.

term "wildcat well" indicates the great

such a strike is that he usually leases | modestly at between 50 and 200 barrels | constructed by the Senecas or other In- said that nearly 60 days later the well dian, who started in the oil business as

the new century's wildcatters. chance, but at the same time is fairly little or no production. The famous the Indian was, in turn, preceded by operations he has been so closely asso- wildcatter, A. F. Lucas, a Beaumont was "646" of Cherry Grove. It was Bonheur, which occurred at Fontaineconfident that he will strike a new field. Cherry Grove well, "646," which was the mound builder or some other pre- clated with John H. Galey, another fa- man. Lucas was certain there was oil drilled by Captain Peter Grace and bleau, the monument shown in the ac-

EVE VIEW OF THE the top of the well, and when equipped | edged king of all wildcatters and the 1 from Pennsylvania to Kansas, but their | caused no oil to flow from Crocker's merely for the sake of whiling away an for pumping the first wildcat venture most conspicuous oil producer in Amer- next move was to open the Neodesha well, but burned gunpowder was pump- hour over the newspaper.

produced about 40 barrels of oil per day. ica because of this fact and because his oilfields in southeastern Kansas in 1893, ed from a well near by, showing that

wildcatter, there is evidence that the natural gas business and has been part of the credit for the discovery of world famous Bradford field. American Indian preceded him and that closely identified with it since. In his Beaumont's oil, however, is due another Probably the most noted wildcat well

One producer I know drilled a wildcat struck in Warren county, Pa., in Feb- historic man. The Oil City Derrick's mous wildcatter, that the story of one at Beaumont and started a well 350 Captain George Dimmick and was a companying illustration has been erect. well and missed discovering such a ruary, 1882, and caused terrific excite- "Handbook of Petroleum" states that is practically the story of the other. feet from where the present Lucas field by about 300 feet. A second wild- ment in the oil country, produced 1,000 numerous pits of great antiquity were The first great success of these argocatter tempted fortune a quarter of a barrels the first 24 hours, increased to found along Oil creek, French creek nauts of oildom was the Mathews gush- to a depth of 650 feet, when his funds well opened the Cherry Grove pool, mile farther east, opened the new field 2,500 barrels in a few days, decreased to and at Pithole, Pa., years ago and that er in the McDonald oilfield, which but gave out, and he then induced Guffey knocked the bottom out of the oil mar and made \$1,000,000. Both men had fig- 100 barrels a day in four months and at they were constructed for the purpose for the Lucas gusher in Beaumont & Galey to test the territory. They put ket, caused a town of 6,000 inhabitants ured carefully, but one had luck and the end of eight months was producing of collecting oil. These curious pits would hold the record as the most wonless than a barrel per day. In contrast were dug on the low grounds near derful spouter of crude petroleum ever into the world famous Lucas gusher. The reason why a successful wildcat- to this is the showing of numerous streams in the vicinity of oil seeps, discovered. Soon after oil was struck it ter makes a fortune when he makes wells near Bradford, Pa., which started and there is evidence that they were not produced 10,000 parrels a day, and it is of today are John A. Gartlan, a Cana- and insignificant in fulfillment.

Since Drake found oil at less than 70 production of oil is greater than that drilling over 100 wells, building pipe the explosion was a success. One of Mr. feet other wells have been sunk over of any other individual, is a native of lines and partially crecting a refinery. Crocker's early strikes, the Rattlesnake ing club affords. There is nothing of 3,000 feet into the earth. It is also in- Sewickley, Pa., and is of Scotch de- The two wildcatters, who seem to be well, was located by a professional wil- the same kind anywhere in Europe, as teresting to compare the 40 barrel well scent. He worked on the paternal farm able to smell oil even if it is 1,000 or low wand seer, who was to get all the oil the foreign sovereigns admitted who at of Drake, the first wildcatter, with the until he was 18, then became a railroad 2,000 feet beneath the earth's surface, produced the first three days. Oil was rare intervals were taken there by him 50,000 barrel well of Guffey, the king of clerk in Louisville and later on an ex- next opened the Corsicana (Tex.) and struck, and the willow wand wielder to share a leisure hour. press clerk in Nashville. Twenty-nine the Colingo (Cal.) fields, and their latest pocketed \$1,500. Mr. Crocker was one While Colonel Drake is called the first years ago he embarked in the oil and triumph is the Beaumont field. A large of the wildcatters who located the

Cor.

DINKE

ROGER P. BARNUM.

A MONUMENT TO ROSA BONHEUR.

Two years after the death of the eminent painter of animals, Marie Rosa



But the first time he did so he was ar rating the electrodes and electric ener- JOHN KENSIT, THE

TERRESTRIAL WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

telegraphy. One of the obstacles in the been made from balloons, and it is de- low its surface. Whether or not the loa. difficulties of intercommunication in- this objection, as they cannot possibly of an interference from curvature. creased in ratio to the distance be- be concealed and would make excellent By their terrestrial method they send Hertz, after whom the "Hertzian

Marconi.

Again, one of the chief uses of wire- officer of the Russian army, and M. sheet of glass is placed the negative less telegraphy would be for the con- Victor Popp, a French scientist of great electrode, as an "isolator," while the veyance of signals and orders in war- attainments, who has already made the positive is burled in the earth at a time either between different sections, world his debtor for several inventions. depth of 10 or 12 feet, and both elec- An incident which suggests a moral of an army, between different vessels of These gentlemen installed an electrical trodes are connected with the transmit- lesson for society leaders has occurred a fleet or between a fleet and the shore. Outfit at a small town near Paris and ting apparatus. This arrangement is to a young lady in Berlin who were a In order to successfully send and re- succeeded almost instantly in trans- also followed at the receiving station, fox's head at the end of her boa. A ceive these signals high masts would be mitting messages to a house situated on and this is all, the inventors say, that is dog was seized with the delusion that hecessary, such as have been used by a prominent street in the heart of the necessary for the perfect dispatch and he was "up against a good thing," got Marconi in his experiments in England city. Their experiments were conductand France, notably along the shores ed in the presence of more than 50 rep- no obstacle, they declare, the sending ing run made a good kill of the dead rious results. He found, he says, an old If a 33 pound pull will move a wagon of the English channel. Now, these masts would, of course, attract the attention of an enemy and cause a con- success.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Judge to commute his term to imprison- something like is mlies.

S the result of a series of re- | centration of fire upon the luckless sig- | As already stated, there are no masts preciate where immediate dispatch is great protestor, commended by some for cent experiments in France it nal men. They could not be concealed, or bailoons, which are absolutely neces- of the first importance. The other im- his evident sincerity and denounced by cent experiments in France it hal men. They could not be conceased, or buildent in oppo-has been proved to the satis- for they must of necessity be on hand, sary in Marconi's method, for, in oppo-portant though negative feature-the others for his sensationalism. Though

has been proved to the satis- for they must of necessary be on many sition to his scheme, this latest of absence of telltale poles or balloons, brought up a strict churchman, he has and scientists of repute that to collect the aerial messages flying "wireless" discoveries is terrestrial already alluded to-constitutes an inithe so called aerial waves are about from another station, either upon rather than aerial. The electric waves, measurable advance over the Marconi ho longer necessary to the perfect a ship at sea or at a distance on land. the discoverers say, are not interfered method and recommends it at once to transmission of messages by wireless Quite successful experiments have with by the earth's curvature, but fol- the governments of Europe and Amer-

way of the perfect working of the Mar- signed to use them in the transmission theory promutgated by Marconi-that he In this connection it may be observed cohi system has been the probable in- of war messages, provided no other sys- must first overcome the curvature of that the wireless telegraphy idea is a terference from the curvature of the tem shall in the near future supersede the earth by crecting high stations at great deal older than young Marconi. earth. At least the experimenters have that upon which Marconi is now assid- either end for transmitters and coher- with whom it is now indissolubly assobeen working to overcome the interpo- uously at work. But if high masts are ers-was correct or not, at least he has clated, for he merely collated and elabsition of the earth's curvature by the open to the objection of being too con- acted on that theory, while Colonel Pi- orated on what more famous men than erection of high poles and the use of spicuous for the comfort of the opera- lowski and M. Popp have cut the Gor- he had discovered. Before Marceni ships' masts. It was reckoned that the tors still more are the balloons open to dian knot at once by discarding the idea were Faraday and Clerk-Maxwell, who discovered the nature of electric waves;

tween the points which it was desired to connect, and consequently verbal communication between Europe and mented with, however, the masts and the transmit station set of the destribution of the transmit set of the transmit se America seemed likely never to even- balloons are all done away with, and, far as electricians regard it, and con- laboratory, each discovering something tuate if the lines of development were in fact, the system is to be commended alsts of two electrodes, separated by a of value which, when all the parts are to be followed along those suggested by for its simplicity. It is the discovery of distance that should vary according to fitted together, will be found to constitwo men-Colonel Pllowski, an engineer the distance to be overcome. Upon a tute a perfect whole JOHN M. IBERTSON.

A THRILLING INCIDENT.

gy for the transmitters. The transmit-

ting waves or rays can also be directed



than four men and can be set up and prayer to follow one creed of worship go," as his enemies call him, was born In 1853. In person he is short and put in working order in an hour, a de- and deliberately setting up another in sideratum that all army men will ap- practice." He is now known as the stocky, with sparkling eyes, curly black hair and fine features. He is a book publisher and has a stuffy little shop in attendant ceremonies, consisting of a Paternoster row, London, where it is speech by the mayor of picturesque said that literally "two is company and Fontainebleau and the singing of an



ROADBED RESISTANCE.

what they say?" "Truth! I should think not! I four days the height of the waves only couldn't write a love poem to save my

years old, had been a slave in his youth Bananas with purple leaves and seedless fruit have been introduced into

New York Christian Scientists will have The engineers of the New York rapid a room in the basement set apart for transit commission say they expect the the storage of automobiles. Peter Postell, who died recently at the running of trains before the end of

ments in the large cities for unskilled was resold for a higher price the orig- Their timbers have successfully resist- rates all ships of war, cable laying ves- richest negro in the south. He was 60 men even at double rates are unheeded. Inal owner should receive a portion of ed the frosty and almost arctic winters sels, whalers and yachts.

The sentences recently imposed upon the series of for- tained through the negligence of an em-

tail, as, for example, the distance seta- own death.

In 1868 a piece of anthque furniture the Bernols art of the sixteenth century, 1000 horsepower, in the French Alps. something like is miles. A room in the basement some of farmhands has caused was sold by a gardener of Geneva. Some of the wooden churches of Nor- King Victor Emmanuel III has a coin the storage of automobiles.

The appellate court of Indiana holds the release clause in a rallway pass some parts of Kansas that advertise- der \$55, with the reservation that if it in an excellent state of preservation. New South Wales exempts from pilot Hopkinsville, Ky., was said to be the 1903.

Reries aggregated 1,058 years. This re-calls the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the billion state, would reach a distance of the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the billion state, would reach a distance of the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the billion state, a debt for beer sold to the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the billion state, a debt for beer sold to the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the side by side, would reach a distance of the story of the condemned man not far from New York who asked the side by side, would reach a distance of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the condemned man the furniture is a unique specimen of the story of the story

painting, ever produced a finer or more famous plcture than the celebrated "Horse Fair." which, through the generosity of Mr. Cornelius Vanderblit, became the property of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. THE DUKE AND POETRY. Not very long ago the Duke of Cornwall and York was credited with having

An Englishman named Cornish has written a book of poems-all love invented an instrument for measuring poems, be it said-which were considerwaves and with it has made many exed at the time worthy of the greatest In the southern Indian ocean during a

violent northwest gale waves averwas 37 feet high.

In the open ocean a strong wind caused waves 16 feet high. East of the Cape of Good Hope during strong west winds which blew with great regularity for waves of this height are extremely rare.



A church now in course of erection for British conservatories.

increased from 19 to 22 feet, and even life!" said York very emphatically.

The Duke of Teck, then Prince Adolphus of Teck, on one occasion said aged 29 feet in height. The largest seen to the Duke of York, his brother-in-law; People sny that you have written this book," holding up the book of poems

in question. "Is there any truth in

of 77 years, 60 of which were devoted to

"Why not?" queried Prince Adolphus,

"You know what it is to be lavesick, I suppose, the same as other people?"

"Yes," answered the duke smartly,

reason for objecting to come forward. which over a newly graveled road. write a poem about 11:"

periments.

only in the imagination. If on the land

ualistic practices which he so ardently heur within the scope of her long life condemns. ... MOUNTAINS AT SEA. We hear persons talk about "waves mountain high," but such waves exist

height.

you see a hill 38 feet high, you would hardly call it a mountain, yet it is very seldom that an ecean wave reaches that

