

THE DAILY NEWS
JULY 1939

091-055-001

CLOSE DOWN WELLS TO PREVENT WASTE

Turner Valley Wells Producing Too Fast for Economy, Cottrelle Explains

The closing down of four oil wells in Turner Valley for a period of one to three months coincided today with an announcement by C. R. Cottrelle, Dominion oil controller, that to encourage production he is allowing an increase of 27 cents a barrel in the price of Turner Valley crude. This sounded somewhat odd to laymen—until Mr. Cottrelle came through with an explanation.

He said he left it to the Alberta preservation board to preserve the efficiency of wells in that province, where oil is brought to the surface by a natural gas lift. Apparently the board had ordered the wells closed temporarily because they had been producing at too high a rate—a rate which involves a wasteful escape of natural gas.

Where such a waste of gas occurred, he added, there was also an eventual waste of oil, as the means of bringing it to the surface was gone.

Mr. Cottrelle said all wells in Turner Valley are permitted to run as much oil as they can without impairing efficiency, but that the conservation board prevents them from going beyond this point.

#149
was
European
1939
Canada
oil
Alberta