

# **THE STORY OF OIL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649210626

The story of oil by Walter Sheldon Tower

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

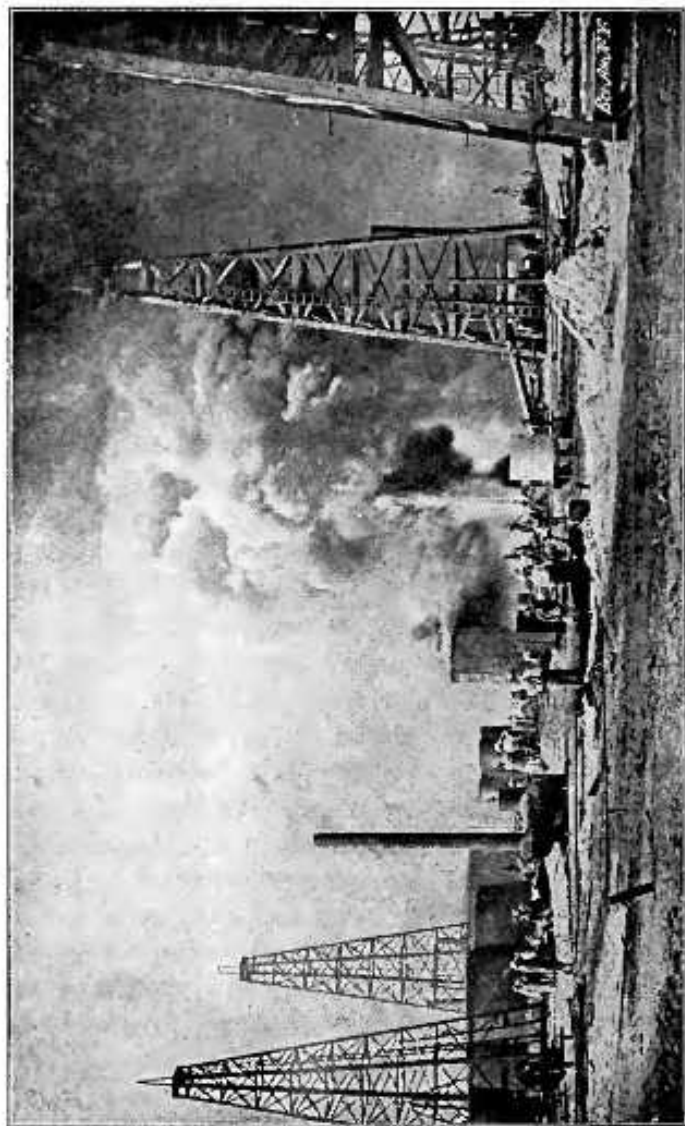
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WALTER SHELDON TOWER**

**THE  
STORY OF OIL**





A Familiar Scene in the Oil Fields: a Well and Tank on Fire.

IC.H  
T7385s

# THE STORY OF OIL

BY

WALTER SHELDON TOWER, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



ILLUSTRATED

158937.

7. 2. 21.

NEW YORK AND LONDON  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

1920

COPYRIGHT, 1909, BY  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY

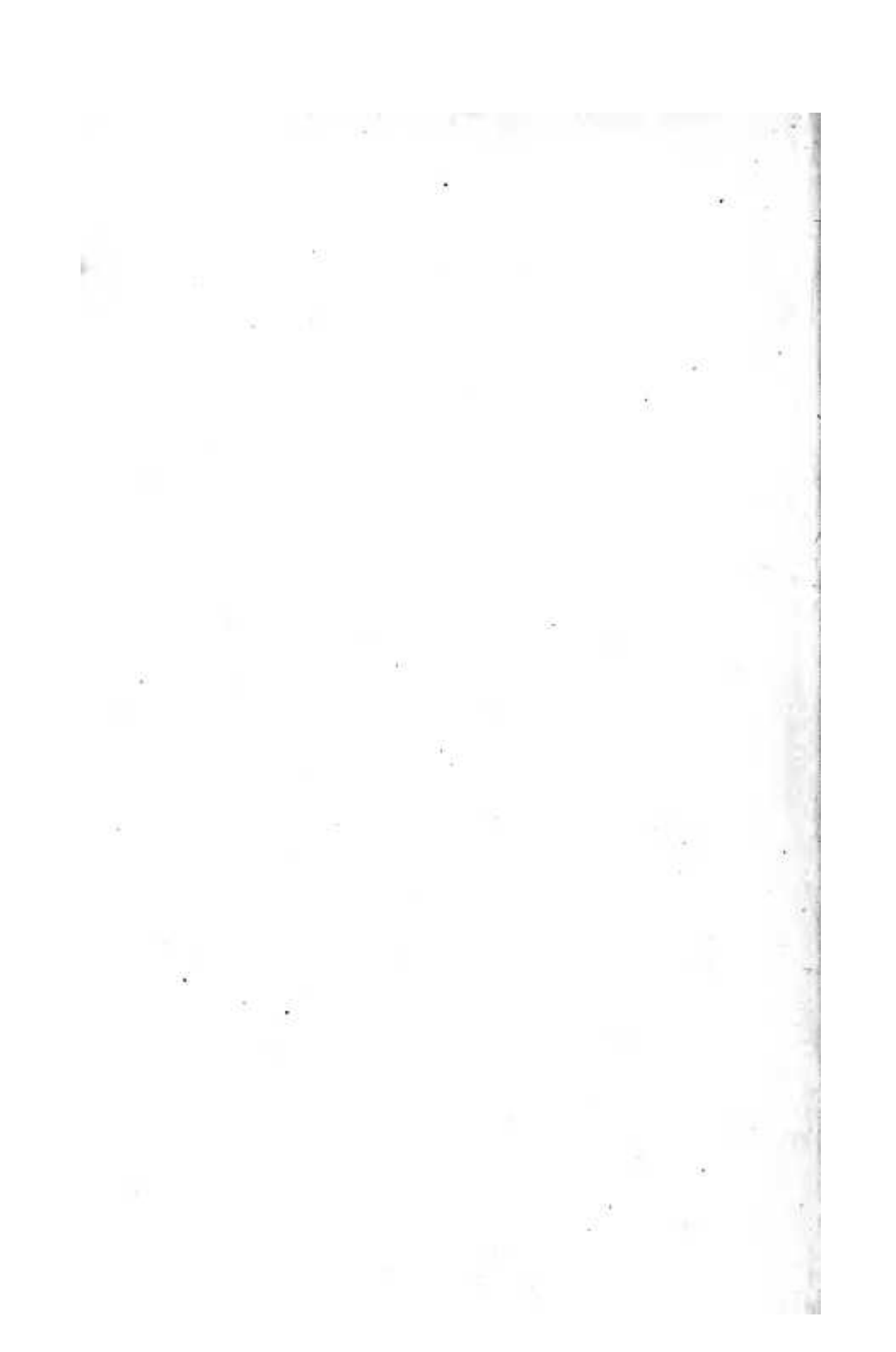
Printed in the United States of America

TO

L. W. T.

WHOSE ACTIVE INTEREST AND FRIENDLY  
CRITICISMS HAVE AIDED MATERIALLY  
IN THE PREPARATION OF  
THIS VOLUME





## PREFACE

---

RECENT years have been marked by prolific crops of "studies in oil," but dealing mainly with some special phase of the oil business, frequently with disputed points of an ethical or a legal nature. Few, indeed, are the volumes giving in convenient form an account from which the reader may survey the entire industry and judge its importance for himself. It is hoped, therefore, that this "story of oil," told in nontechnical terms, may serve a double purpose: first, to portray, without prejudice or passion, the enormous developments in the petroleum industry during the last fifty years; and second, to point out the important part which petroleum and its products play in everyday life. Few industries, even in this age of huge enterprises, can rival the petroleum industry in its rapid strides of progress; none can surpass it in the magnitude and range of its operations; no other has been so completely American in its development. For this reason most of the volume

## PREFACE

deals with the evolution of the industry in the United States.

Much more might have been made of the spectacular side of the industry, but that is, on the whole, the aspect which has been most exploited, and its incorporation here would have been at the expense of other less familiar aspects. Little has been said here about the moral and legal aspects of Standard Oil activities. If, on the contrary, much more than the usual amount of credit is given to that company, it is merely a result of trying to do justice where but one side of the question is ordinarily considered.

In the preparation of the volume valuable material has been drawn from many sources, especially from the publications of the United States Geological Survey and other Federal Bureaus, as well as from various periodicals, particularly from the *Petroleum Age*, the *Mineral Industry*, and the *Scientific American*; indebtedness to them is hereby gratefully acknowledged.

W. S. T.

PHILADELPHIA, May 1, 1909.