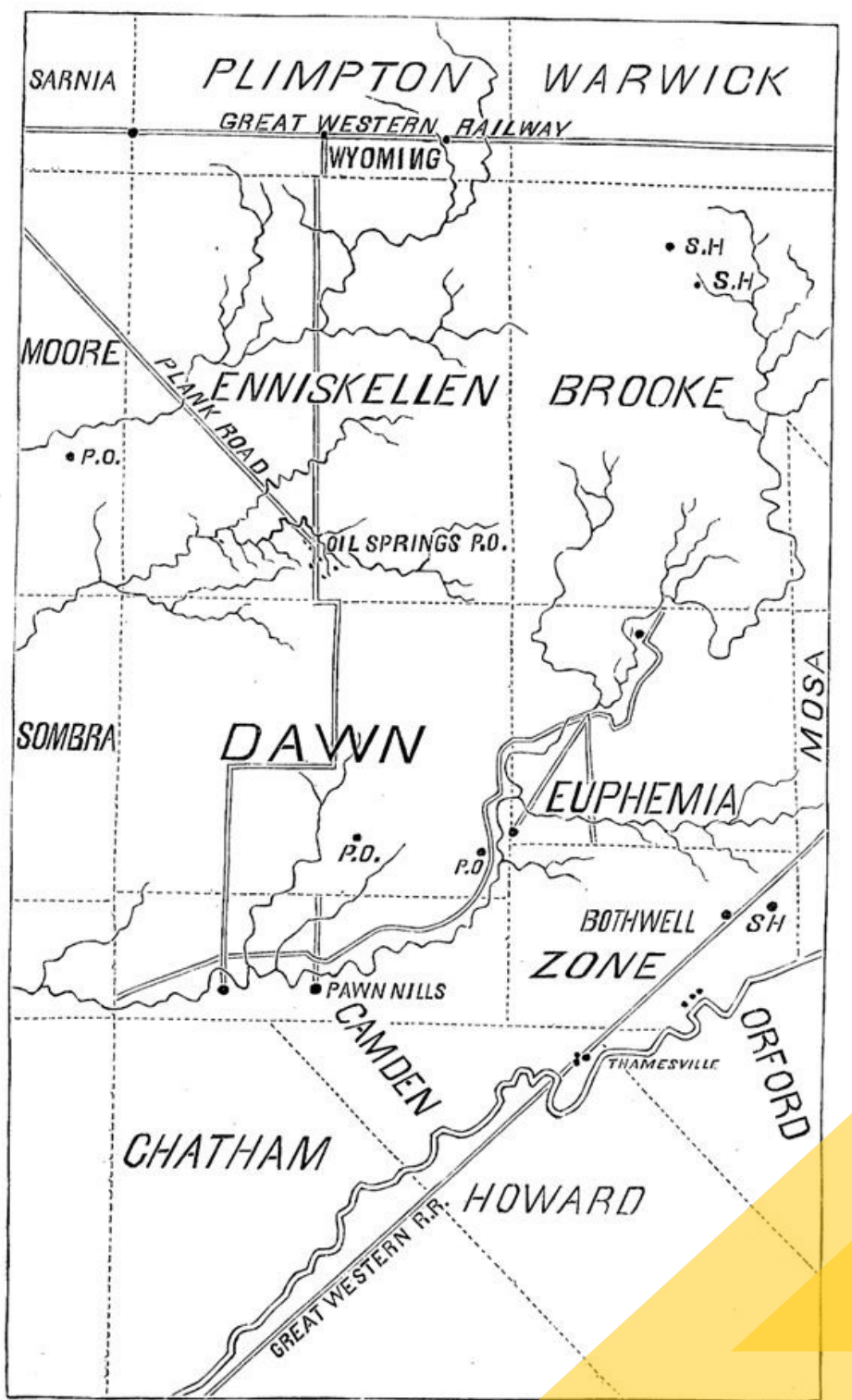


# **Oil Heritage in Lambton County: A Legacy of Innovation**

Oil Museum of Canada

MEA Conference November 17, 2023





15th 5 Part 18th Feb 1854  
387

Petition from Charles  
St. Leger and others of  
the City of Hamilton  
Praying to be incorporated  
as the International  
Exploring, Mining, and  
Smelting Company  
12

Sp. 12

H.

Hamilton 26th Feb 1854

By Charles N. Drifft

their intention without the benefit of an  
Act of Incorporation.

Wherefore Your Petitioners humbly  
Pray Your Honorable House to  
grant them an Act of Incorporation  
under the title and title of  
"The International Exploring  
Mining and Smelting Company"  
- Or otherwise to do with the premises  
as in Your wisdom Your Honors may  
deem meet.

And Your Petitioners as in duty bound  
will ever pray

Witness  
John Strickland

Charles N. Drifft  
Hiram Cook  
John B. Van Hooker  
Henry Drift

Application for Charter for the  
**FIRST OIL COMPANY IN CANADA**  
The Charter was granted on December 18th. 1854 to  
The International Mining and Manufacturing Co.  
The original petition was made during the session of 1852.

To the Honorable the Legislative  
Council of the Province of Canada  
in Parliament Assembled.

The Petition of Charles St. Leger  
of the City of Hamilton, and others.

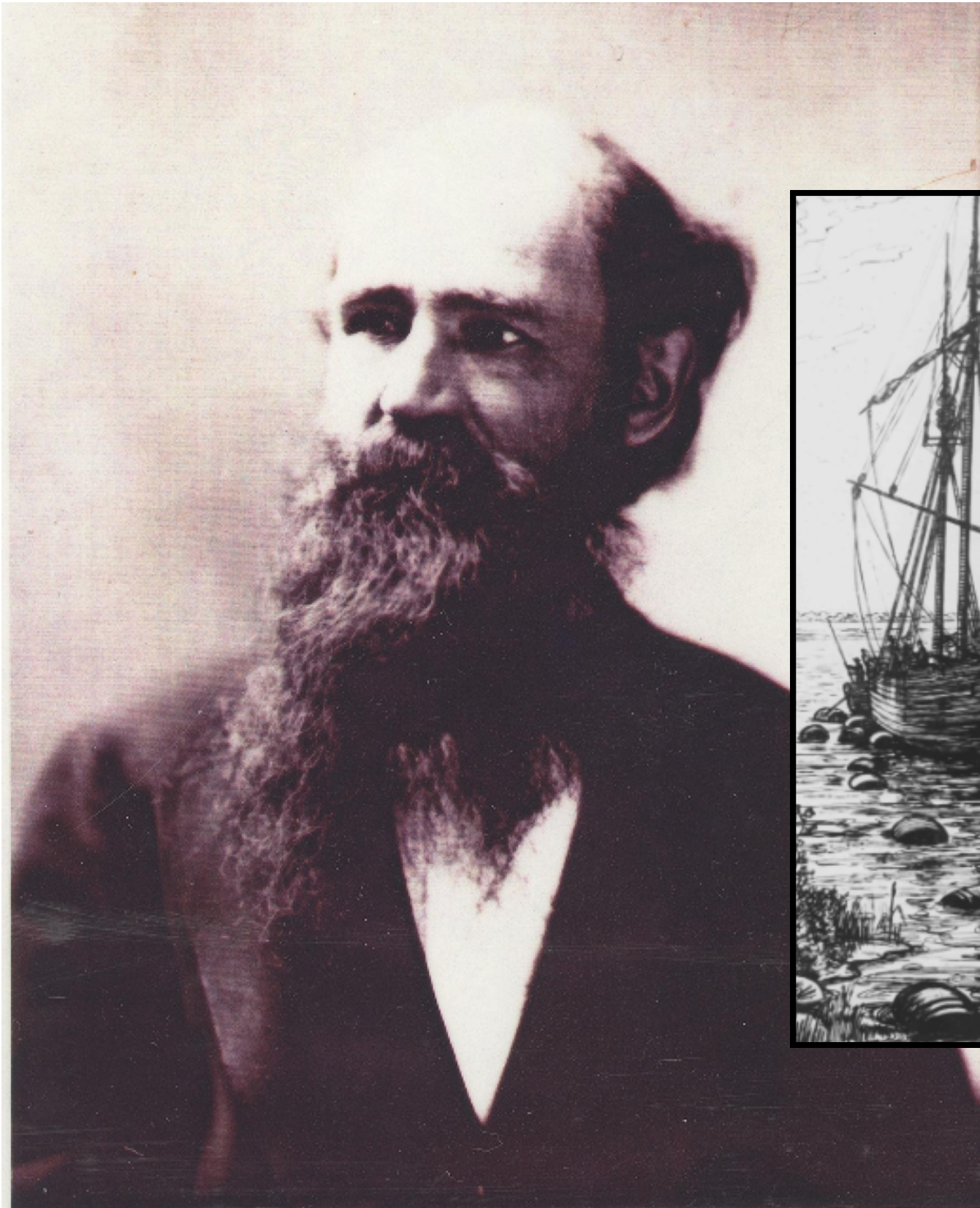
Respectfully Sheweth: -

That Your Petitioners have been  
for the last three years at great cost & expense  
exploring various sections of the Province for  
Asphalt, Lead, Copper, Silver, Oil and Salt  
Springs, and the said Charles St. Leger is owner  
in fee of two large Asphalt beds in the  
water district, the oil and two Salt Springs  
in the said district - also one Lead vein in the  
County of Prince Edward. Lead in the township  
of Redford, Lead in Belmont, Lead and Copper  
in Ottonabee, and has mining rights, leases  
and privileges in various portions of the Province.

That Your Petitioners have associated  
themselves together for the working and  
development of the said Mines and Minerals  
and for bringing the same into the market.  
Whereby much benefit must result to the  
Canadian Public.

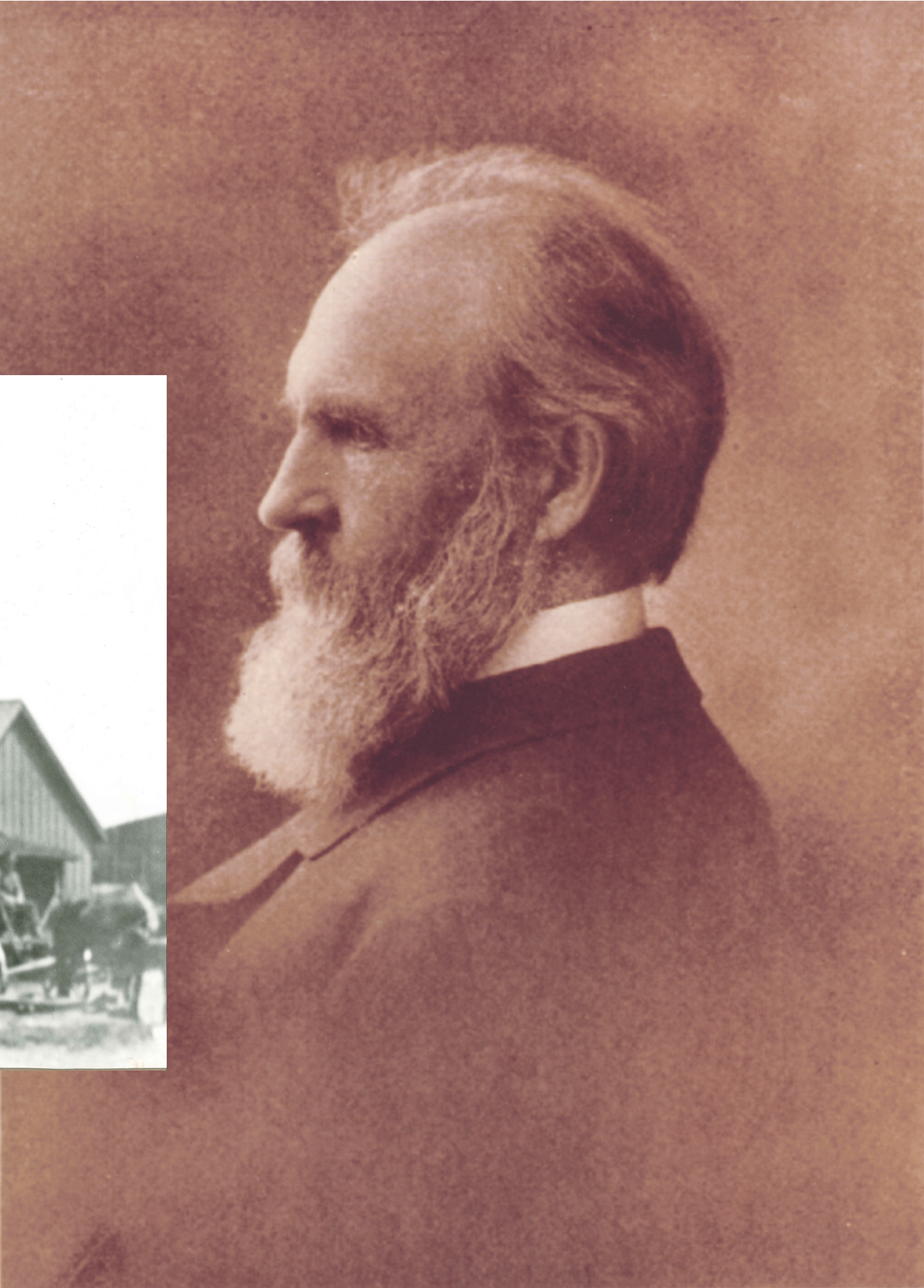
That Your Petitioners find  
great difficulty in carrying out their  
their

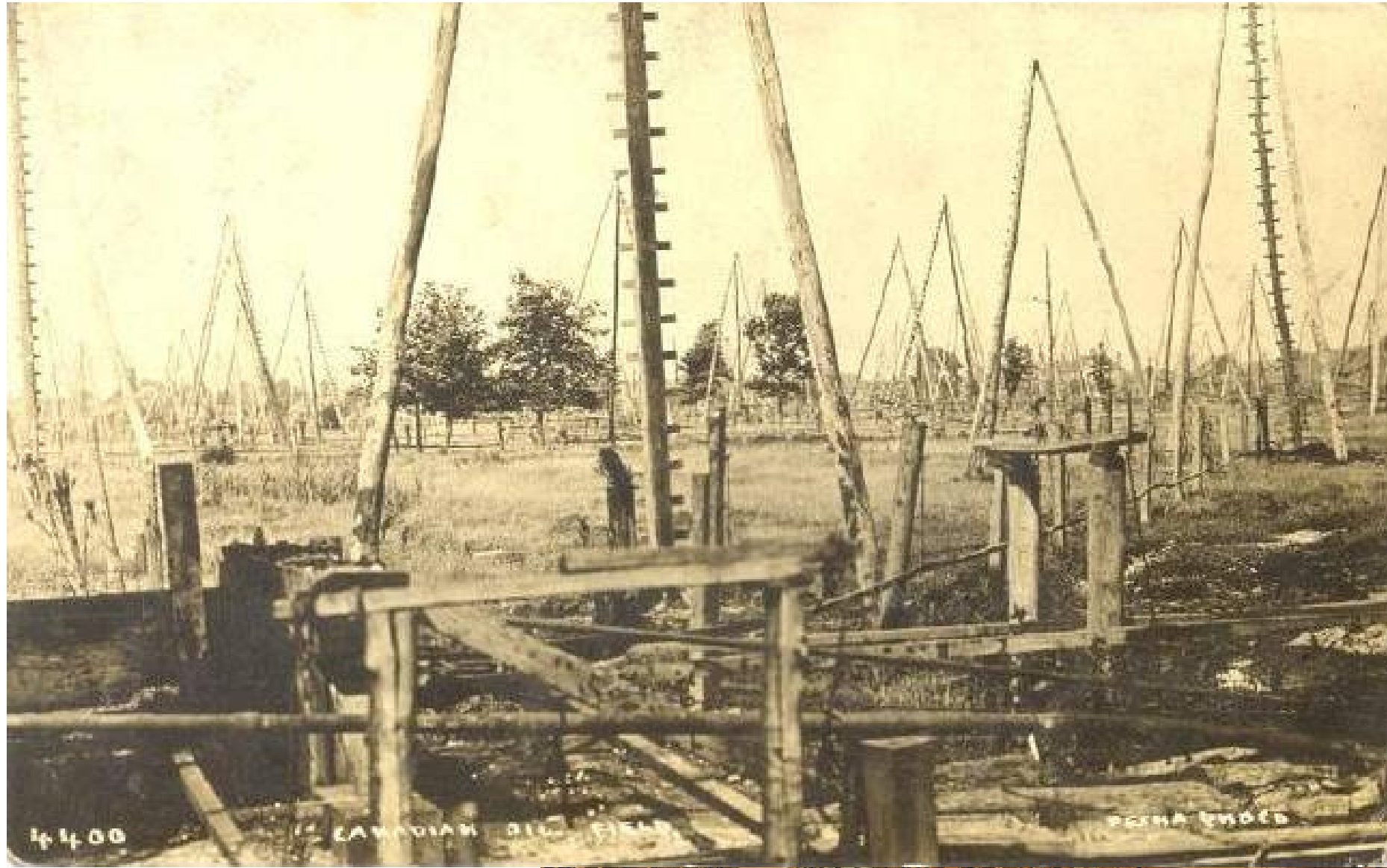








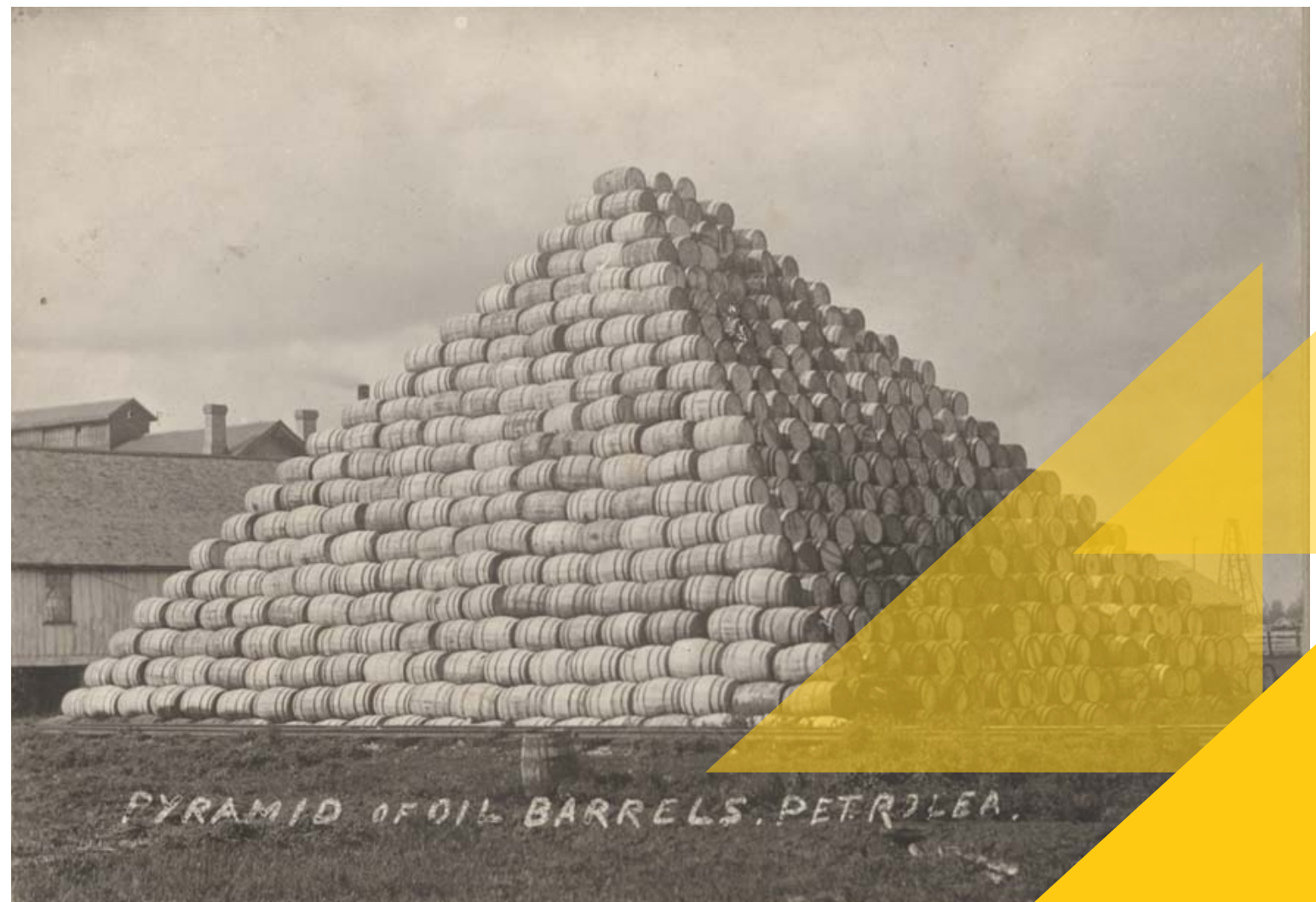
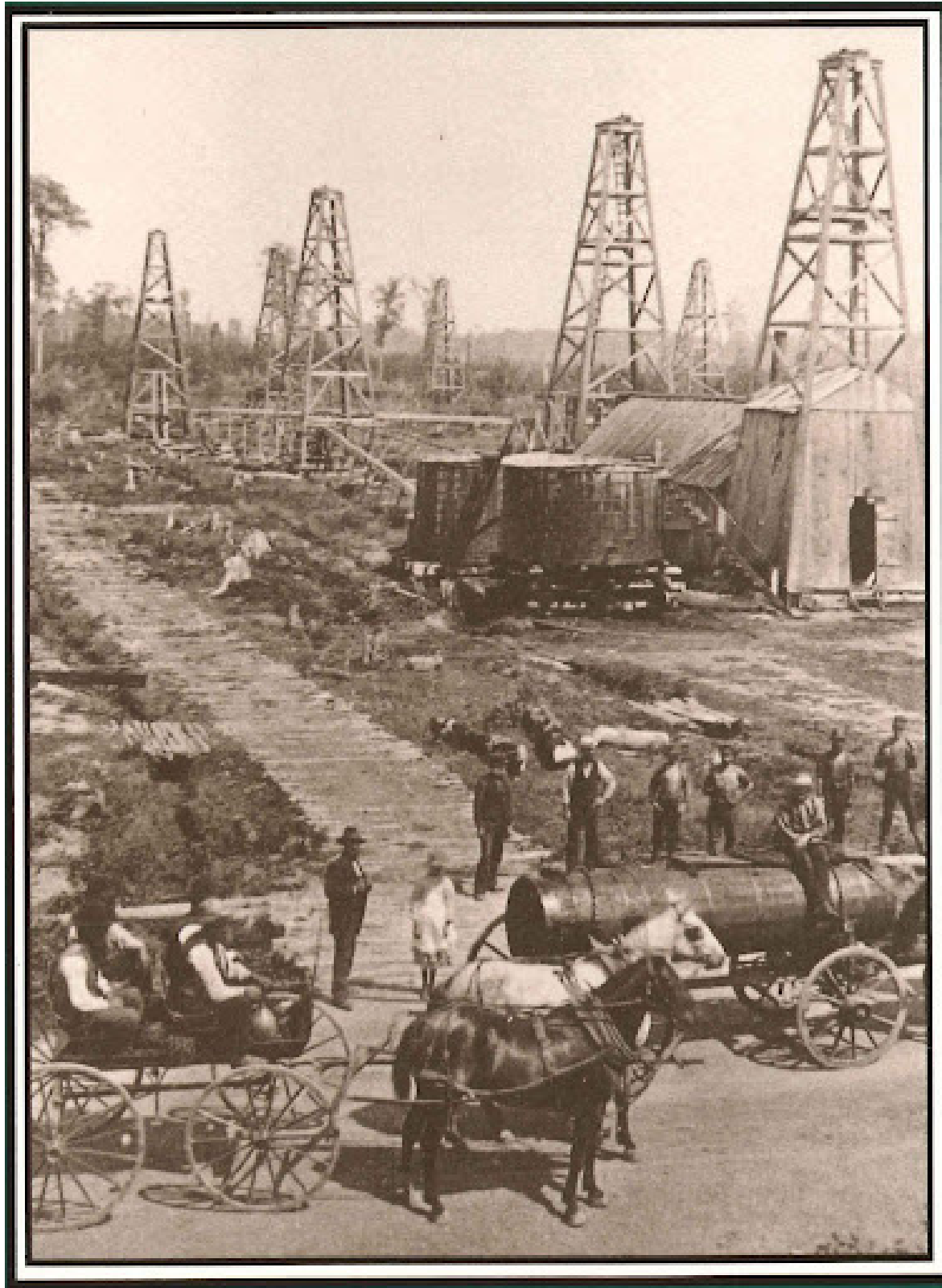




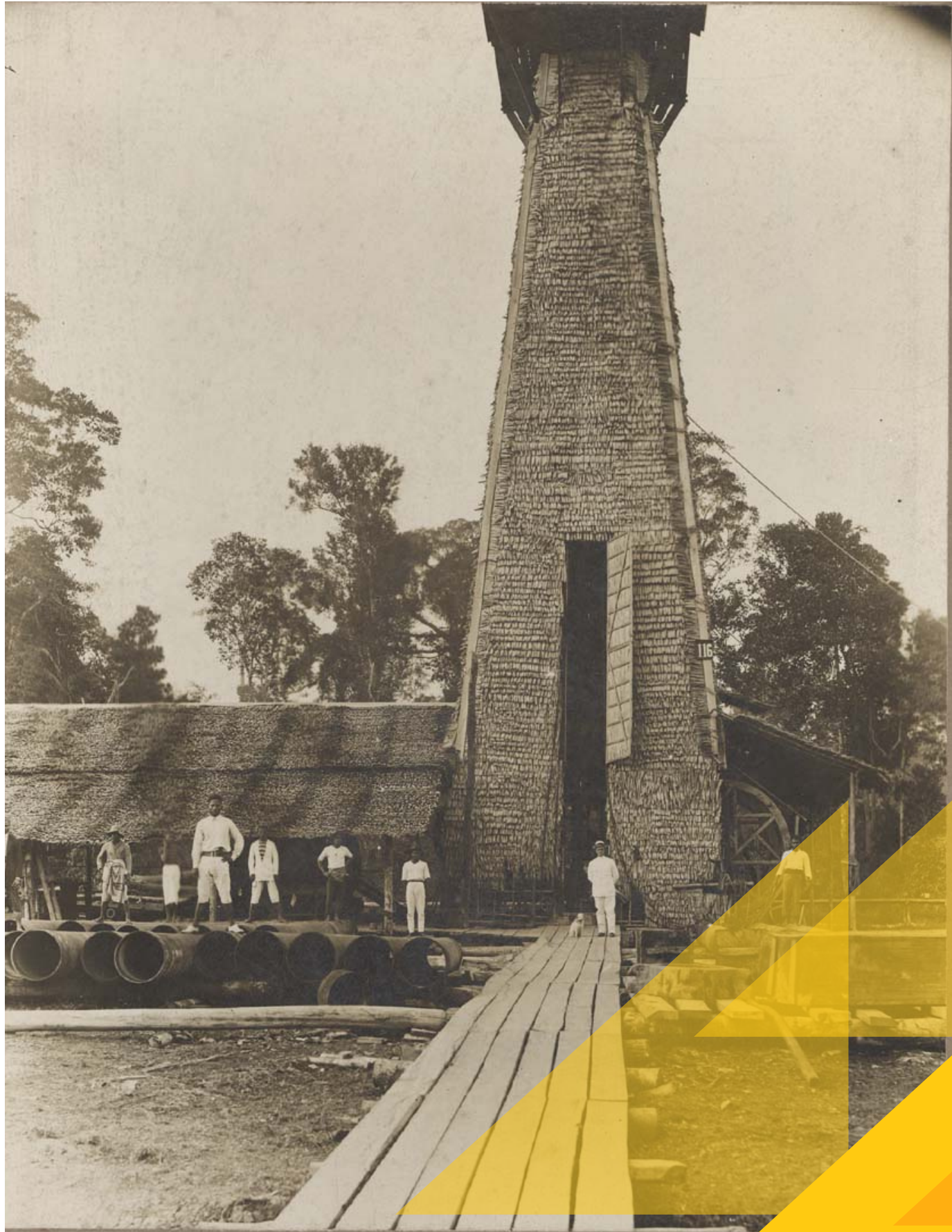




KICKER METHOD OF DRILLING







OIL MUSEUM OF  
**CANADA**  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

# POLYMER NOW PRODUCING

## Manager Of Local Unit Competent

John R. Nicholson, a successful lawyer, was drafted for job.

JOHN R. Nicholson, native of New Brunswick, and for 12 years a British Columbia lawyer specializing in corporation and insurance law, fills the responsible position of general manager of the \$48,000,000 Polymer Corporation. Obviously he is a big man and when not directing the affairs of the only synthetic rubber plant in the British Empire from his own office in the former administration building is a tirelessly attending conference on rubber production in the far corners of the continent.

## COMPETENT MEN IN CHARGE OF POLYMER CORPORATION



The president of the Polymer Corporation is Richard C. Berkishaw, former practicing lawyer in Toronto and general manager and treasurer of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Canada Ltd., New Toronto, since 1932.

Mr. Berkishaw, as head of Polymer is regarded as holding one of the biggest jobs in Canada's wartime program. He is one of those big executives to whom Ottawa has repeatedly turned when it is a matter of filling some vital post.

## Queen City Native Has Rubber Job

R. C. Berkishaw was practicing lawyer and head of Big Tire Concern.

THE president of the Polymer Corporation is Richard C. Berkishaw, former practicing lawyer in Toronto and general manager and treasurer of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Canada Ltd., New Toronto, since 1932.

## MUNITIONS HEAD



Hon. C. D. Howe, Canadian Minister of Munitions and Supply, who authorized the installation of Polymer as a Crown company for the manufacture of synthetic rubber made necessary by the cutting off of the supplies of natural rubber by the Japanese.

## War Alters Industrial Map Of City

The Canadian Observer publishes Special Rubber Plant Edition.

THE Second Great War has already changed the industrial history of Sarnia through the choice of this area as the home of the great Polymer Corporation, the only synthetic rubber industry in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

## GAVE SARNIA BIG CONCERN

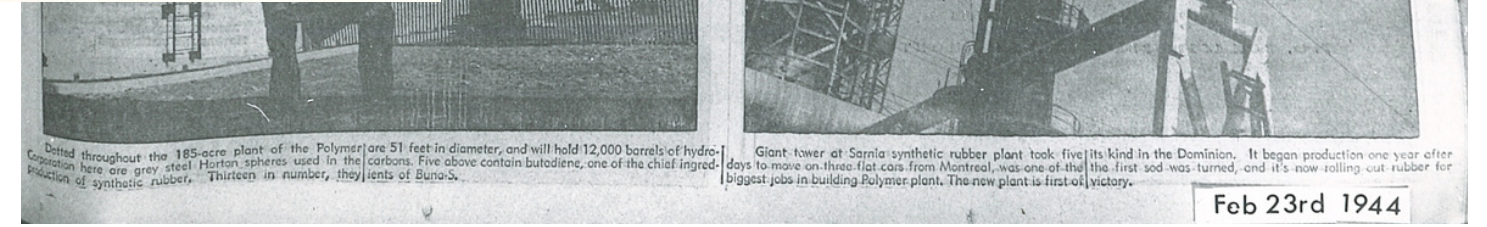
HON. Clarence Decatur Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply, authorized the incorporation of the Polymer Corporation Ltd., a government-owned industry, as a means of meeting the demand for synthetic rubber which has been developed since the outbreak of the war and which are under Mr. Howe's ministerial supervision. He is the head of a war-time department which has produced fighting equipment valued at more than eight billion dollars up to the end of last year.

## le Welcomes Polymer To District

into the city proper. The city of Sarnia was in the same position as the average home would be if a big batch of company was to drop in unexpectedly.

When the synthetic rubber problem confronted the Dominion government was again faced by Mr. Berkishaw and he was requested to take the presidency of the Crown company formed to finance, build and operate the enormous plant which is producing rubber from petroleum today.

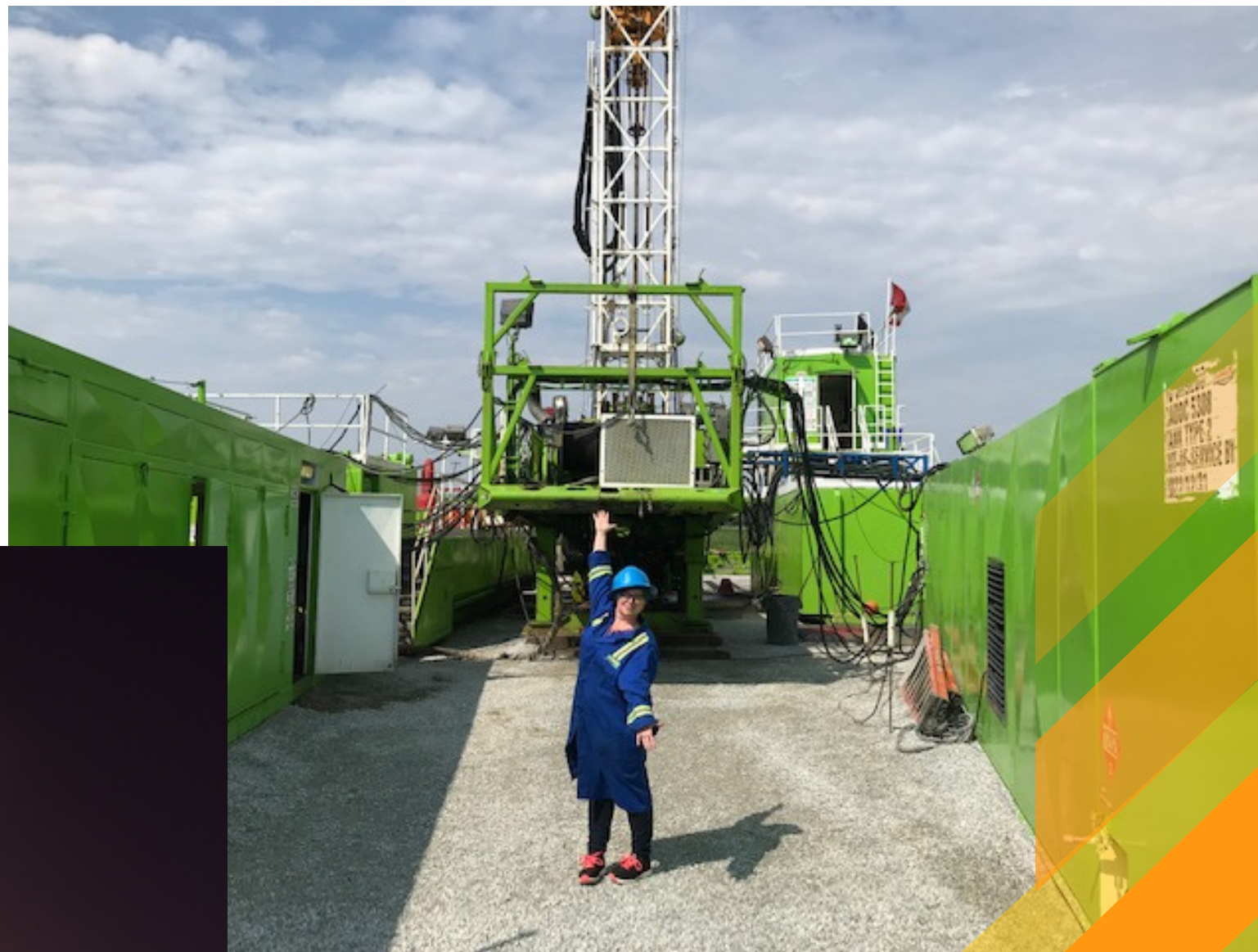
Mr. Berkishaw has suggested having three outstanding qualifications for the Polymer presidency. His background and manufacturing experience had been largely in the rubber business with Goodyear. He was originally a priority officer for the government, and just themselves in the new situation as the home owners also made special efforts, and in some cases, sacrificed their own comforts in order to aid newcomers.



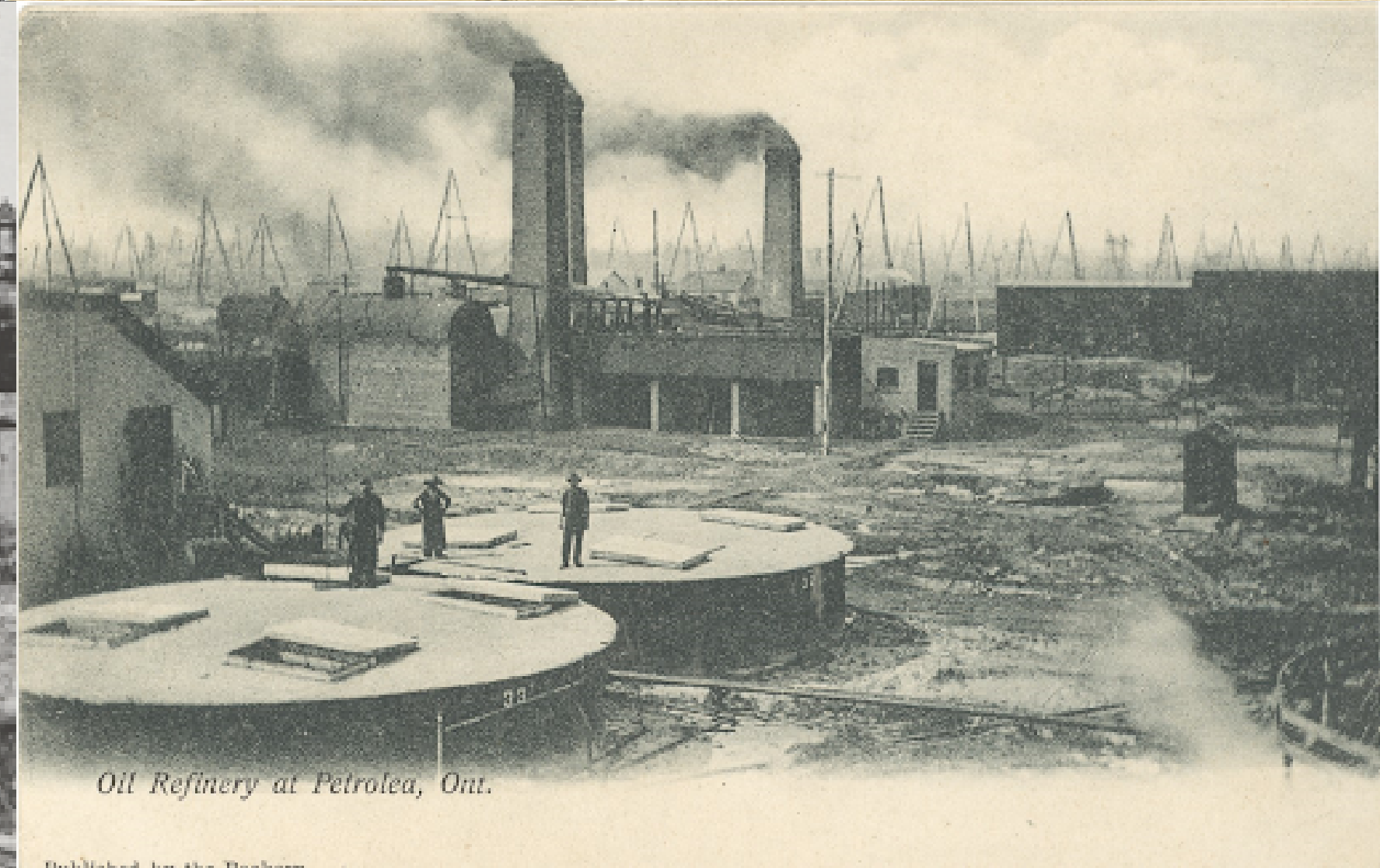
Dotted throughout the 185-acre plant of the Polymer Corporation here are grey steel Horton spheres used in the production of synthetic rubber. Thirteen in number, they are 51 feet in diameter, and will hold 12,000 barrels of hydrocarbons. Five above contain butadiene, one of the chief ingredients of Buna-S.

Giant tower at Sarnia synthetic rubber plant took five days to move on three flat cars from Montreal, was one of the biggest jobs in building Polymer plant. The new plant is first of its kind in the Dominion. It began production one year after this first sod was turned, and it's now rolling out rubber for the first time.

Feb 23rd 1944



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*Thank you!*



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