

## Petroleum Boom in Romania in the Years 1900

Reverential regards to those brave men of those olden times – specialists (geologists, scientific chemists, engineers, drilling foremen), great autochthonous producers and honest-minded politicians –, to small-scale petroleum producers, often simple countrymen, main pioneers of the Romanian petroleum industry, and to the unnamed countrymen drillers, who equally contributed to the development of this industry in the years 1900.

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### Abstract

*In the paper the picture of the Romanian petroleum industry impetuous development in the years 1900 is presented. The author has preferred the quotations from articles, the interviews, advertisements, reports, speeches, letters etc. appeared in different publications of high reputation in that period. The characteristic features of this economic process – with implications on many plans (technical-scientific, juridical, social, political, linguistic etc.) – are emphasized, to its evolution great and little producers, specialists, politicians and an unnamed multitude of petroleum-peasants have contributed.*

**Key words:** *Romanian petroleum industry, the boom in the years 1900.*

### Introduction

The petroleum boom in the years 1900 represents the impetuous development of the Romanian petroleum industry from the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century, when the Romanian petroleum has been affirmed on the world market by its qualities (the period 1895-1904), especially due to the autochthonous financiers (see C. Alimăneștianu's speech in [1], No. 12, June 1904), and on the basis of production of the hand-dugs, and when higher foreign capital investments have taken place (with preponderantly American ones) and with intensification of the mechanized exploration, drilling and exploitation works (the period 1904-1916).

In December 1904, in the Throne message presented in the event of the inauguration of the Romanian Parliament Session, The King Carol I said (in accordance with the review [3]/December 16, 1904, page 63): “In the course of the last few years the petroleum industry has advanced to an extent that it now occupies an important place in our economic life. It has been aided by the erection of tanks and the creation of an oil port at Constanța, which facilitates the exportation of this new source of wealth contained in our sub-soil.”

Really, the petroleum industry development in the Romanian petroleum boom period was made by extension of the petroleum areas due to the discovery of new deposits both by mechanic drillings and especially by hand-dugs, by increase of the petroleum production, which determined building of new refineries and infrastructure development, by construction of railways and pipes for petroleum transport, of tanks for petroleum and lamp gas, and by rigging up an oil harbour in Constanța (with tanks and oil pumping plants and of the petroleum products in the ship tanks). The development of this industry had as an effect the appearance and development of the connected industrial areas, which by their turn supported this progress; for example, the industry of the wood processing (for wooden constructions of the drilling rigs and the pumping units: substructure, derrick, machine buildings, storehouses, walking beam, pole connecting rod etc.), the boiler industry, chemical and pharmaceutical industry, the railway and navy transport (on the sea and Danube), the electric energy producing industry etc. It is to be mentioned that electricity was used for the first time in the world on the oil fields in Romania (see the paper "The use of Electricity in the Oil Fields", appeared in the review [2]/April, 1904).

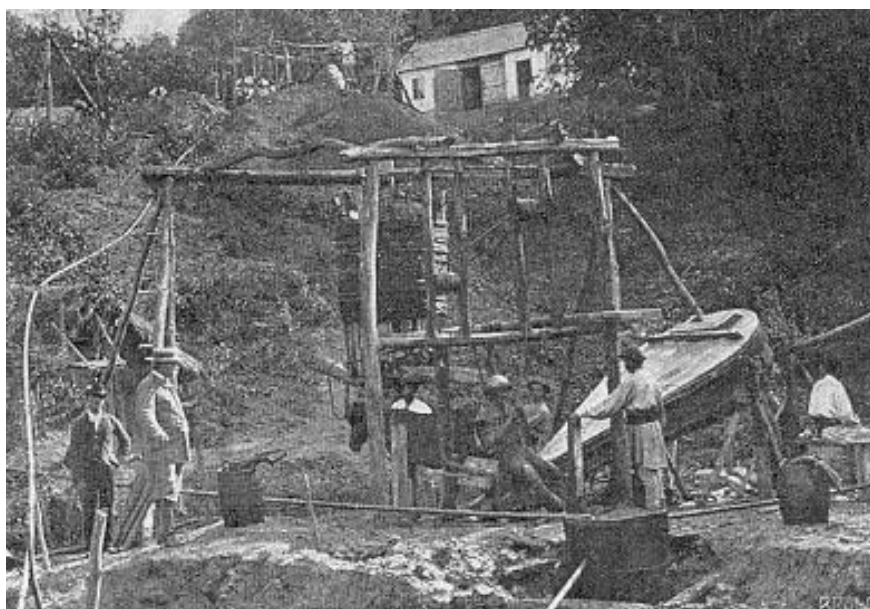
Furthermore, the picture of the Romanian petroleum industry impetuous development in the years 1900 is presented and in a future paper will be emphasized the implications of this development on different plans: economical, social, juridical, technical-scientific, petroleum education and linguistic.

### **Picture of the Romanian Petroleum Industry in the Years 1900**

In the interview "Mr. A. Adiasewich and the Romanian Petroleum Industry", appeared in May 1904 in the review [2], it is a detailed table painted concerning the Romanian petroleum industry in the years 1900, as a result of a visit in 1904 to the petroleum sites in Romania "of one of the London petroleum experts, well known in the oil fields of the Continent", Mr. A. Adiasewich. It follows some excerpts from this paper.

"The extraordinary development of the Romanian petroleum industry is closely bound up with the progress made in the industrial and financial position of the country. During the four last years (1899-May 1904, our note) a great deal has been accomplished; this progress is chiefly, it appears to me, due to the energetic measures which have been adopted by the Liberal Party." Four years ago the Romanian sites were "a calvary camp." "To-day (in 1904, our note) everything is bustle and spirited industrial camp." Then, "everything, buildings and outfits, appeared to be temporary and ephemeral", because "it would be useless to waste money in the construction of permanent buildings, as one might at any moment expect to have to abandon the property at short notice". "Now, when the industry is on a sounder basis, the structures are of a more substantial description, and vast sums are being spent on drilling and extending the production area. Thanks to the new law safeguarding the interests of foreign capital (and namely, of the "Law for regulating and strengthen the grantees' rights to exploit the oil and ozokerite on the private property", in 8<sup>th</sup> March 1904, our note), foreigners have now become an active influence in the development of Romania in general and of its petroleum industry in particular. The petroleum industry of the country comprises two camps; one includes the larger firms, which chiefly obtain their oil by means of steams-drilled wells, and only pay small attention to hand-dugs; while the other comprises all the small producers, who work exclusively with hand-dugs (Fig. 1, our note)." "The small producers, very often simple peasants, are the principal pioneers of the Romanian petroleum industry. A hand-dug does not cost much. If dug by contract the cost ranges from Fr.3,000 to Fr.7,000, but the small producers, generally working two or three together, have no expenditure beyond the cost of tools and timbering." "Manual work they manage themselves. These people are not afraid to penetrate into new regions; they are guided entirely by personal investigations, and dig their own pits with a fair amount of success. Several new localities have been opened up in this manner, and the industry owes them something for their enterprise. The larger concerns are mostly under the sway of

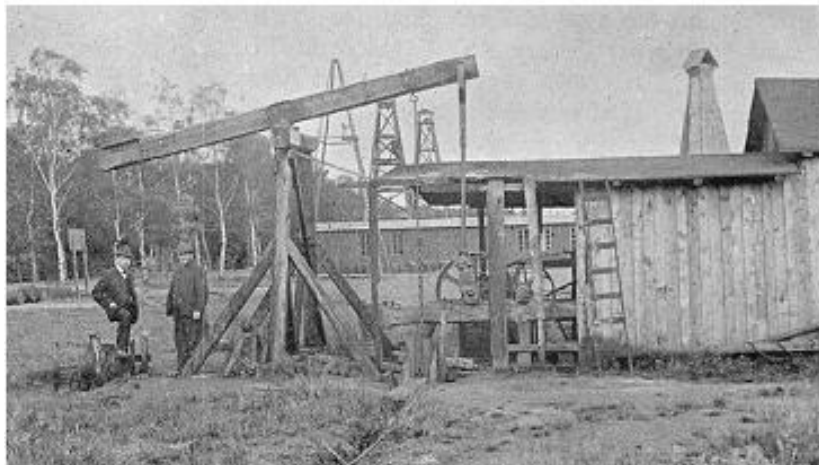
either the Deutsche or Disconto Bank, although there are still a few more or less important independent companies. Although it is stated that these two banks will work hand in hand on the German market, unity does not appear to be their watchword in Romania, especially in the acquisition of territory, because ... one firm tries to outbid the other. Quite recently the Disconto acquired several small properties at Buştenari. They did so at very high figures, which showed there was competition. The only redeeming feature of this competition is that the money paid to the small producers is employed by them for further pioneering work and this will eventually lead to extensions of the proven area. With the exception of Government oil-bearing lands, the larger proportion of the proven areas is the property of peasants, and these, in order to increase the value of the land, dig pits for the purpose of proving the oil-bearing nature of their properties. Of course, this is largely done for the purpose of producing oil and for selling the yield, but they are always ready to dispose of their properties outright, or on royalty terms. These small producers constitute a valuable asset in the Romanian petroleum industry, and have so far been fairly successfully in competing with the larger concerns. The presence of this pioneering material in the ranks of small producers augurs well for the future development of Romanian oil. One may also safely assert that the presence of this class largely accounts for the comparative cheapness of the oil sold to the Romanian consumer. It is worth mentioning that the discovery and development of Dîmboviţa, Doftana, Buştenari, Gura Ocniţei, Vulcăneşti, Apostolache, Comăneşti, Solonţ, Lucăceşti, and other localities was mainly due to the enterprise of these small pioneers. At the end of the last year (1903, our note) there were in the Dîmboviţa district 52 producing hand-dugs, also 12 in course of construction, in addition to 48 temporarily idle and 24 abandoned pits, six producing wells, seven in drilling, and four idle wells. The yield for the year aggregated 22,470 tons." In the whole country, the situation of hand-dugs on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1904, was as follow: 1,164 abandoned 195 in construction and 744 producing, as compared with 997 abandoned, 163 in construction and 675 producing on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1903. Of steam drilled wells there were 118 abandoned, 92 in construction and 290 producing by the end of 1903 as compared with 150 abandoned, 114 in construction and 224 producing on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1904 ([2], March 11, 1905).



**Fig. 1.** An oil pit in the years 1900 [3]: the draw spool with horse, the bellows with a pipe attached to pump air down the hole, the digger with sheet-metal helmet and cape

“As regards work at the oil fields, everything appears to have changed during the last few years. Work is carried out on a large scale, and ... on a properly conceived plan. The Telega Oil

Company is working their properties in a most up-to-date manner (see fig. 2, our note). The work bears every sign of permanency, and it is apparent that company is determined to stay in the country. The Steaua Română, backed by the Deutsche Bank, is already carrying out an extensive drilling programme, and the Disconto Bank has also commenced to drill several new wells. The French people appear to have formed a high opinion of Romania, and ... they will also stay in the country. Several representatives of French firms were on the spot, and many others were expected for the purpose of investigating properties. Of the local producers, special mention must be made of Mr. Câmpeanu who has wells at Buștenari, Grâușor, and Câmpina. He is one of those born oil men, endowed with all the gifts which are essential if one is to succeed as an oil field man; he is certainly one of those men whose work is of the dividend-yielding kind."



**Fig.2.** "Up-to-date extracting method: pumping oil well", in the years 1900 ([3], August 1904).

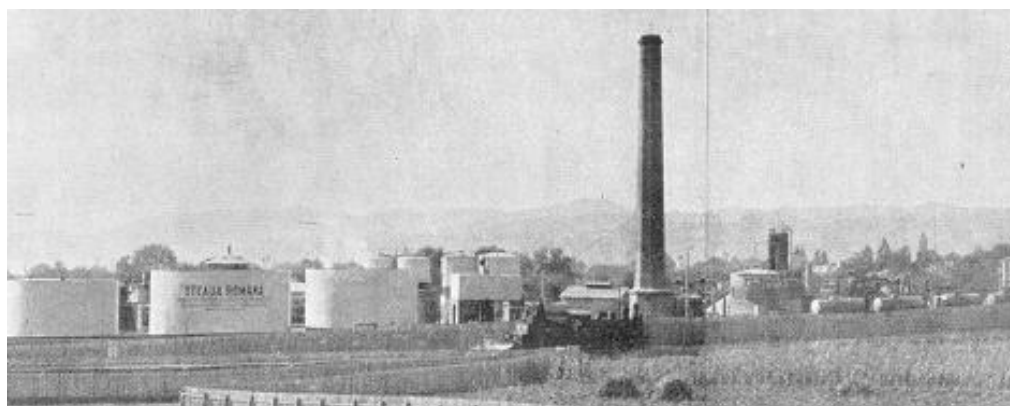
"Generally speaking, the progress made by the Romanian industry during the last four years is extraordinary. During that short period the production has increased from 250,000 to 390,000 tons. A still greater improvement is anticipated this year (1904, our note), from 45 to 50 new wells and about 200 hand-dugs having been recently started." "The oil produced is treated for the most part at Romanian refineries, the largest quantity of crude exported (about 20,000 tons) going into Hungary, where there is a low import duty. The principal refinery is that of the Steaua Română at Câmpina (see Fig. 3 and 4, our note), the Bucharest plant being of small capacity. The Aurora refinery at Băicoi comes next in importance, and is now working under the ægis of the Disconto Bank. Mr. Câmpeanu has two large refineries, one at Târgoviște and the other at Cernavodă."

"These are the principal refineries worked exclusively for the export trade. Another large refinery at Ploeni, formerly the property of the Belgium-Romanian Company, and recently acquired by Messrs. Ruzicka, Elias, and Taubes, has not paid any dividends during the past three years, and nothing definite is known about the future of this place. A great many small refineries treat from 2 to 50 tons per day, and exclusively confine their operations to the local markets. It is interesting to notice that, notwithstanding the total absence of pipe-lines, these refineries are for the most part in and around Ploiești, and it is wonderful how they manage with imperfect plant to turn out kerosene which in quality is not worse than that placed on the markets by the largest refineries. These all offer their kerosene at prices which defy competition on the local markets." "The kerosene exports are for the most part by way of Constanța. There is also a small export by the Danube, but, of course, during the summer months only. In order to prevent a monopoly, the Government have erected three large tanks at Constanța, and provided facilities for the loading of steamers. Five more large tanks are to be erected, and the equipment of the port is to be greatly improved. This is bound to lead to a great development of the export

trade. The rates charged by the Government for handling the oil are nominal, and merely cover expenses.” It is outlined the idea that “the Romanian petroleum industry has a bright future before it, that the area of petroliferous lands is considerable, and that there is plenty of room for extension”. Also there is the firm belief that, “if Romanian oil ventures have not been satisfactory investments in the past, it has not been owing to a poverty of the mineral resources, but rather to overcapitalisation and mismanagement in certain quarters”.



**Fig. 3.** “General view of Câmpina”, in the spring of 1904 [1].

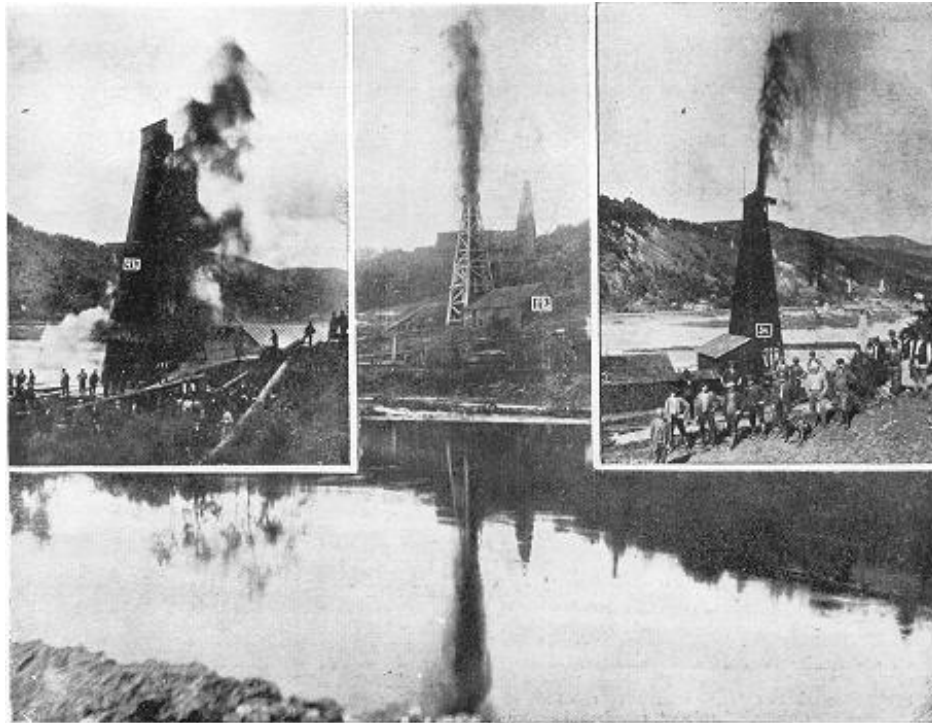


**Fig.4.** View of the Steaua Română refinery in year 1904 [5].

The picture of the Romanian petroleum industry in the period of 1900-1904 may be completed with some interesting information taken over from the speeches of the different personalities of the times, on occasion of important events, from different papers or advertisements published in magazines as [1], [2], [4] etc., or from the books referring to the Romanian petroleum history ([3], [5], [6], [7] etc.). Further some of these remarks are presented.

“The petroleum industry is tending to be transformed in our country, searching after its way, and to create outlets, and by a conscientious work it is trying to get its place at which it has right by the high quality of its products. We have (in 1900, our note) more than 30,000 hectares of well-known and intact oil fields. The oil was not exploited than in a small number of oil fields, and there the recoveries were stopped at 140-200m of depths because the oil was enough and could not be neglected. Only a few oil wells reached depths of 300-400m and had an extraordinary output that could not be found in the oil recovery annals. Our oil production reached 30,000 wagons yearly, and it is not seriously recovered, but only in Prahova Valley; the

other parts in the country are not still recovered.” (Acc. the paper “The French trade and our petroleum industry” in [4], No. 7, July 20/August 2, 1900). The native exploiters make pipelines for the oil transport from the fields to the railway stations for storing and loading in wagons or refineries in order to be processed. So, the magazine [4], May 5 (18), 1900, gives some information: “On 1<sup>st</sup> of May was put in exploitation the pipe-line from Buștenari to Băicoi. The pipeline, which was built on initiative and on expenditure of Mr. N. Sfetescu, Mr. Shapira and others, is called to make the great services to the exploiters from Buștenari”.



**Fig. 5.** Spouters of the Steaua Română Company in Câmpina [1]: The spectacular but damaging practice of completing a well by allowing it to blow in uncontrolled was common practice in the early days of the petroleum industry.

In the years 1900, foreign-financials, exploiters, academic professors, specialists in mining area visited the oil-bearing regions of the country – “who wanted to venture oil recovery works” ([4], No. 6, 1900). Then, convinced about the oil richness of the Romanian sub-soil, the foreign investors leased or bought oil fields from the private owners and they brought drilling installations, e.g. “The Society Speranța leased in the last month (June 1900, our note) from more than 100 peasants the oil fields lying in Podenii-Noi, Drajna de Jos and Tătaru in Prahova district” ([4], No. 6, 1900). The newspaper *Curierul Financiar* was showing in 1903-1904 several oil property offers and realizing several important transactions. “The railways near the Romanian oil fields are practically blocked with rolling stock loaded with machinery, boring tools and casing”, it was shown in the month of May 1904 in the magazine [2]. According to the reviews [1], [2] and [4], the spouters in the Romanian oil fields were frequent appearances in the 1900’s years (see Fig. 5): “The Câmpina-Moreni Company has brought in another monster spouter. ... The Steaua Română Company’s No. 64 Câmpina well on the Bucea property had a prolific flow on the 26th ult., yielding 1,500 tons in a few hours” (acc. the article “Spouters in the Romanian Oil Fields” in [2], May, 1906); “The public is still vivid prepossessed by the extraordinary petroleum springs of the No. 65 Câmpina well. The spouter yielded 1,280 wagons in 203 hours” (see [1], No. 20, October 20/November 2, 1904). The news about this gusher

wells and their high productions have attracted not only the curious people, but the foreign investors, too.

But the most extended oil fields were in the State property and stayed unexploited. In 1900 Romania was in a very difficult financial situation, because “in 1899, due to the strongest draught and to the exaggerate expenditures, and a budgetary deficit, more than 70 million lei, pressing over the whole credit of the country”. A way of going out of the crisis was the concession of the oil field belonging to the State. But also in 1900 a crisis was showing on the oil market, due to an over-production: the American corporation Standard Oil, which was owning the oil market control in the world, succeeded to challenge the oil price decreasing, both on the American as on the European markets “without an another reason than its wish to worst an appearing competition”. The crisis was intensely felt in Romania, too: “... in our country, the petroleum industry, after that in five years (therefore in 1895, our note) it had exceeded in prosperity the Galician industry, and had successfully fought on the European markets against the Russian and American competition suffered a stopping because the overproduction worsened the more flowing” (acc. the paper “The French Trade and our petroleum industry” in the magazine [4], No. 7, 1900). This fact shows that Romania was already a well-known exporter on European markets, having good quality petroleum. But the impact of this overproduction crisis on native producers was showing on one hand the absence of the transport means and of the storing of some important amounts of oil, and on the other hand, their financial poverty, the fact that they could not oppose to the high foreign capital. It was the technological and financial poverty of a native petroleum industry that has appeared.

For the young Romanian petroleum industry the struggle with the foreign monopoly competition was a cruel reality and in its struggle it was to have success in order to be able to survive, and the pipe construction (Băicoi – Constanța, our note) had as purpose the decreasing of the transport price in order to fight against the competition in order to create sale places in the Foreign Trade” (in accordance with engineer Anghel Saligny’s opinion, general director of the Romanian Railways, in “A report concerning the oil transport through pipe-lines”, September 16, 1899). As a result, the Government was immediately to make a decision concerning these interests” ([4], May 5/18, 1900). In this way, in 1901 the Domain Minister realized a map presenting the oil fields which “summarizing all the studies carried out till then in this respect, they presented a general topographical view about the geological distribution of the oil fields” (acc. “The programme of the works to be realized in view of the oil bearing region studies necessary to the pipe lines”, published in [1], Édition Supplémentaire, No.19, October 1/14, 1904). At the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1903 the Ministry Council approved the distribution of the extraordinary fund of 500,000 lei ... in order to begin the previous works of an oil pipe line as it follows: 450,000 lei for the oil storing tanks in Constanța harbour; 25,000 lei for the study of the oil-bearing regions; 25,000 lei for the study of the works to be carried out for the pipe line and its subsequent recovery”. These were the first studies having a scientific nature subsidized by the State and meant to the petroleum industry. The committee charged with the study of oil fields in Romania, made up of Prof. Dr. L. Mrazec, engineer A. Alimăneștianu, and engineer Vintilă I. Brătianu, had drawn up “The programme of the works to be realized in view of the oil bearing region studies necessary to the pipelines” (see above), where the followed purposes were emphasized: “The conditions of works and study established in this programme will allow ... to find out not only the richer fields and which are to be deserved by a pipe, but they will lighten the State, as owner, to render valuable the oil fields.” But it was the general opinion “that it should not be given in foreign hands the monopoly of such a great wealth as the oil is, and less in the monopoly hands of the Standard Oil Trust” (acc. the paper “The ministerial visit to the oil exploitations in Prahova district” in [1], No. 12, Édition spéciale, June 1904). In this way, it was necessary the adoption of a “law for giving in concession the State’s oil fields”, which was to contain important clauses with the object to prevent from monopoly building up. This law was promulgated on 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1906. In order to draw up it, “the government decided to have in mind three important problems: 1) it should not be conceded immediately all

the available oil fields, but it must be kept some of them as a reserve; 2) it should be avoided to create a monopoly by giving the oil fields in the hands of a single firm; 3) the transport installations for crude oil or refined oil, either by railway or by pipelines should be kept only in the hands of the Government” (acc. the declaration of the conservatory prime-minister G. Gr. Cantacuzino, presented in Parliament before reading the “Introduction to the law project” and overtaken by the magazine [3], June 1906, in the paper “British Consul and the oil field in Romania”).

After that, in 1900, taking advantages from the difficult financial situation occurring in Romania, “Standard Oil” tried to obtain the concession of 15,000 hectares of the State’s oil field, and the right to build the necessary pipe-lines till Constanța, but without having a result true to the resistance of the liberal Governments (which were against to monopolize the Romanian petroleum industry), at the beginning of 1904, “Standard Oil” put some order in its affairs in order to begin in March its activity in Romania (acc. the article “New capitals in Romania” in [1], No.1, January 5 (18), 1904). “Standard Oil Company has got into the Romanian fields in thorough-going manner. Its agents have organized the Romano-American Oil Company, which is actively at work (in January 1905, our note) applying the skill of the driller and the advantage of modern machinery to the petroleum problem in a foreign land. A number of drilling rigs have been shipped from the United States, and a picked corps of American drillers has been sent after them. These men, split up in small groups, have been sent off into the oil fields four and five together. For a start they have erected three derricks at Făget, not far from Buștenari, the centre of the famous oil field of that name. Three more derricks have been allotted for the Buștenari field itself. American drillers have been spread all over the face of the fields: at Cosmina, Boldești etc. Active operations in the oil fields of Romania by the Standard Oil Company during the past year (from 1904, our note) have made it possible to compare the American methods of oil development with Romanian methods.” (From an article in [2], January 14, 1905.)



**Fig. 6.** General view of Buștenari, the famous oil field, in year 1904 [1]

“Since when Standard Oil had been established in Bucharest ... enormously increased the interest of the foreign capitals for our oil deposits. There is now (January 1904, our note) in Romania a great number of representatives of the different capitals who want to make recovery. In the present month (January 1904, our note) other new representatives are waiting for the same business. There are among them some enterprising people from America who want to



make recoveries only in the aim to sell their oil to Standard Company.” (From the paper “New capitals in Romania” in [1], No.1, January 5(18), 1904). In January 1905, “all kinds of drilling system (at that time, our note), including Albert Fauck’s (the water flush boring system – a controversial system at that time, our note), have been introduced and tried in Romania” ([2], January 14, 1905). According to the newspaper *Curierul Financiar* (from March, 1905), in January-February 1905 was drilled the No. 1 well on the Buștenari, property of the Mercedes Company (a French company), at 223 meters depth. “The power for drilling of this well was supplied by a gasoline motor of 25 H.P., the first used in Romania for drilling purposes. The owners of several other properties have been favourably impressed by the working of this motor.” (Id.)

The foreign companies preferred the oil-bearing regions, which could prove their wealth in hope of some high incomes with minimum investments. So, it happened that Buștenari was invaded by the new enterprising people who “wanted to concentrate themselves only there, being the risk of a greater plotting of the concessions” (id). If in 1894 the hills and the valleys in Bustenari were “nearly desert” occurring only a few hand-dugs, having only little depths and no distinct importance concerning the productivity (see the paper “The ministerial visit to the oil exploitation in Prahova district” [1], No.12, Édition spéciale, June 1904), the native exploiters covered step by step the field with tens and hundreds pits, emphasizing the wealth in oil of this locality: “I want to mention to you that I, myself (was declaring Jean Diamandescu in his letter addressed to the magazine [1], our note) was the first exploiter in the region Buștenari, and with great difficulties I succeeded in. While I was drilling the first pit in Buștenari, all my friends were vexing me, but having a great trust in the wealth of this locality I went ahead and I saw that my dream came true. During 8 years (thus from 1896, our note) after a work without shrink, I became victorious in my enterprising and with a satisfactory capital. The locality Buștenari, when I entered it, was valueless, if it had been bought for ever with 40,000 lei, today (in 1904, our note) it cannot be bought not even with 30,000 million“(see [1], February 5 (18), 1904). So, in 1904, the locality Buștenari (see Fig. 6, our note) was penetrated by pits and wells, provided with houses and dependencies, and all over woven by water pipes, and petroleum pipe-lines which bounded the several small reservoirs from the oil wells or pits with the main stations” (acc. the paper “Ministerial visit to the oil exploitations in district Prahova”, [1], No.12, Édition spéciale, June 1904).

## Conclusions

In this paper the impetuous development of the Romanian petroleum industry at the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century is presented, which has meant the Romanian petroleum boom in 1900’s years. The information has been taken over by the author from some books written in this period and from different articles, interviews, advertisements, reports, speeches of some personalities living in those times, letters of some persons experienced in this field of activity, all of them appeared in that period in high reputation reviews „devoted to the world-wide interests of the petroleum industry and allied trades”. The quotations have been preferred for objectivity and in order to grasp the living images of those times.

The petroleum boom in Romania of 1900’s years was characterized by the following main features: the petroleum production increase, especially at the beginning, on the basis of the pits dug by the peasants (the pit digger-peasants), “the real pioneers of the Romanian petroleum industry”, then on the basis of the mechanically drilled oil wells on private properties, being in greater and greater number; the autochthonous investments increase of the great and little field owners; penetration of the foreign capital, firstly the German one, with much more strength, then the American one, which after 1904 have a great impulse on the activity of drilling, extraction and petroleum processing, encouraging the coming of another foreign investors; construction of some new and modern refineries (in Câmpina, Băicoi, Târgoviște, Plopeni,

Ploiești etc.) and increase of the concerns for a higher petroleum processing; demonstrating of a special interest on the part of Romanian Government (without depending on political colour, liberal or conservatory) for development on “healthy bases” of the Romanian petroleum industry, by improving the legislature, by reasonable management of the petroleum fields belonging to the state (“in order not to waste a precious wealth of the country, which is petroleum”), by initiating and supporting some studies regarding the geological distribution of the state petroleum fields, by encouraging the laying of a pipe in order to connect the petroleum regions of the country with Constanța harbour, by building a petroleum harbour in Constanța for petroleum and petroleum product storing and for their loading in ship tankers, by stimulating the petroleum exportation on the Danube and the transport on railway, by setting up The School of Foreman Drillers in Câmpina for bringing up autochthonous specialists in domain of drilling and petroleum exploitation, for “affirmation of the Romanian element as a judicious factor and able to participate to a great extent in putting to account of the important riches represented by our petroleum fields” – according to C. Alimăneștianu’s speech on the occasion of the school inauguration on 1/14<sup>th</sup> December 1904 ([1], No. 24, December 5/18, 1904); affirmation of the Romanian petroleum high quality on European markets; the world-wide recognition of the scientific and technical skills of the Romanian specialists in petroleum geology and chemistry, drilling, petroleum exploitation and processing etc.

In this way, in 1904, Romania was becoming the fourth great centre in the world, after United States, Russia and Galicia. “It has been a matter of comment by several of the Second International Petroleum Congress members that it should have been Romania (which in the production of oil has come near to the position occupied by Galicia in this industry) that was numerously represented at the congress, and which, by means of a special exhibition, occupied such a predominating position at Liège” – it was written in a letter sent to the review [2] on the occasion of the ending of the congress works taking place in Liège-Belgium between 26-30 June 1905 ([2], July 15, 1905). In September 1907, the Third Petroleum Congress was taking place in Bucharest. It was for the first time when the Congress was taking place “at an important producing centre” ([2], June 1906), after Paris (1903) and Liège (1905).

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## Boom-ul petrolier din România anilor 1900

### Rezumat

*Lucrarea prezintă tabloul dezvoltării impetuoase a industriei petroliere românești din anii 1900. Autorul a preferat citatele din articole, interviuri, anunțuri, rapoarte, cuvântări, scrisori etc. apărute în diverse publicații de prestigiu din epocă. Sunt evidențiate trăsăturile caracteristice ale acestui proces economic, cu implicații pe multiple planuri (tehnico-științific, juridic, politic, lingvistic etc.), la evoluția căruia au contribuit mari și mici producători, specialiști, politicieni și mulțimea anonimă de țărani-petroliști.*