

THE PROSPECTING FOR GAS.

The Broad Ripple Well To Be Exploded with Nitro-Glycerine This Week.

Ready to Begin Work at Once on the New Wells—A Full List of Indiana Gas Companies.

The flurry attending the discovery of gas at Broad Ripple subsided as quickly as it began. Yesterday there was but little talk concerning it, except in circles where business men were immediately interested in the experiment. Inquiries were, of course, made by everyone about the development of the well, but these once satisfied gossip and current talk drifted on to the pipe-line projects. It is the prevailing opinion that Indianapolis must look for her supply of gas to the Hamilton and Hancock county sections, although the hope of discovering gas within twelve miles of the city is still entertained by many. At Broad Ripple the well flowed under a weak pressure, the gas at no time during yesterday going more than three feet above the mouth of the pipe. Very little confidence is felt in the capacity of the well even through shooting. What at first promised a rich flow is now considered as being against any possible increase by breaking the rock with nitro-glycerine. If the flow, as it appeared directly after the drill touched the rock, had continued with equal force, the directors think that shooting would have yielded a bountiful supply. Instead, it decreased, indicating that the stream was becoming exhausted, the further the drill went into the rock. Drilling stopped at fifteen feet below the Trenton crust, and the work will not be continued until the results of shooting the well are reached. The directors have decided to do this and in the meantime they will reserve their decision as to sinking another well in that vicinity. In the meantime their drill at Westfield is making good progress. It is at that point where the majority of the directors expect to achieve success. Their expectations are expressed almost as certainties.

The Brightwood well is not to be given up as a useless hole. The Capital City company has concluded to pump the water out, preparatory to applying other methods, which, it is thought, may open up a profitable stream. Some of the directors are of the opinion that the drilling should have been continued to a depth of 1,900 or 2,100 feet. They base this on the experiments in Pennsylvania, which at about the same depth of the Brightwood well, yielded no greater flow of gas or gave stronger presence of oil. When the drilling was carried into the second strata having wells, both of gas and oil, were obtained. The company, however, determined to experiment in that part of the county until gas is secured, as the faith of its directors is boundless. During this week the company will have two drills at work in the Millersville region. There is also talk of contracting for the third. The Twelfth-street drill is still fast in the shale, and why it cannot be taken out suggests many remarks that the well has about reached its end through the power of certain influences connected with pipe-line projects.

The Council committee on natural gas will meet in the Mayor's office, Tuesday, at 2 o'clock.

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