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## OIL SHALE

Oil shale is to replace petroleum as the source of the mineral oil supply of the United States, according to the United States Bureau of Mines. The most important deposits of oil shale in this country occur in Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming, but there are many deposits of black shale in some of the Eastern states, including Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.

The fact that oil shales produce only about forty-two gallons of oil per ton means that to meet the present requirements of the oil industry there would have to be nearly 1100 shale retorting plants, each able to put through 1000 tons of shale a day. Thus it will be seen that to supply the 400,000,000 barrels of petroleum produced annually in the United States from shale, would require the mining of 400,000,000 tons of the material, which is very nearly the present volume of coal production in this country.

Oil shale is a compact, laminated rock of sedimentary origin, which is about 33 per cent ash, and contains organic matter which yields oil when distilled.

Although this oil is not in amounts which are appreciable when extracted with ordinary solvents for oil, the industry has been successful in various countries, prominent among which is Scotland, where the investment is more than \$12,500,000.

The earliest record of production of shale oil was in Shropshire, England, where "Oyle from a kind of stone" was distilled.