

World Production of Mineral Oils.

THE increasingly important role which mineral oils have assumed in the life of Nations, in peace and in war, coupled with the periodic prophesies in the daily press of an impending petrol famine, lend interest to a sober analysis of the present situation by Dr. Oscar Zaepke in *Forschungen und Fortschritte* (1936, 16, 209). Dr. Zaepke finds that while the mineral oil output of the world sank from 211 million tons in 1929 till 1932, it rose again gradually to 209 million tons in 1934 and to 226 million tons in 1935—the highest annual output in world production. The important mineral oil producing countries of the world and their individual quotas during the peak year (1935) make very interesting reading.

Dr. Zaepke considers that any estimate of the

yet not been completely surveyed. The technique of tapping is continually improving till, to-day, it is possible to tap very nearly *all* the oil in a given locality. Further, progress in other branches of applied science, as for example the development of the Bergius, Franz Fischer, and Tropsch processes, are continually enriching the amount of raw material from which petrol or its substitutes can ultimately be obtained. These facts lead Dr. Zaepke to deprecate unwarranted attempts to create scares about the world mineral oil position.

The geographical distribution of mineral oil is, however, quite another matter and cannot be fully gone into here. At one end of the picture is England who must cover her enormous demand exclusively by imports and at the other end is

WORLD PRODUCTION OF MINERAL OILS.

(In 1,000 Tons.)

Country	1935	%	1934	%	1933	%
U. S. A.	135 487	59.9	123 693	59.2	123 266	62.3
Russia	24 005	10.6	24 151	11.5	21 434	10.8
Venezuela	22 211	9.8	20 427	9.8	17 553	8.9
Rumania	8 359	3.7	8 473	4.1	7 387	3.7
Iran (Persia)	7 480	3.3	7 537	3.5	7 086	3.6
Dutch East Indies	6 000	2.7	5 971	2.8	5 392	2.7
Mexico	5 956	2.7	5 614	2.7	5 000	2.6
Iraq	3 550	1.6	861	0.4	118	0.1
Columbia	2 643	1.2	2 477	1.2	1 849	0.9
Peru	2 429	1.1	2 316	1.1	1 883	1.0
Argentina	2 129	0.9	1 995	1.0	1 957	1.0
Trinidad	1 672	0.7	1 583	0.8	1 385	0.7
India	1 406	0.6	1 290	0.6	1 227	0.6
Sarawak Brunei	671	0.3	660	0.3	622	0.3
Poland	515	0.2	529	0.3	551	0.3
Germany	425	0.2	315	0.2	239	0.1
Japan (incl. Taiwan)	257	0.1	245	0.1	213	0.1
Equador	243	0.1	259	0.1	216	0.1
Canada	187	89	150
Egypt	180	0.3	211	0.3	228	0.2
Bahren Islands	171		36		
Other Countries	143		150		139	
TOTAL	226 119	100.0	208 982	100.0	197 915	100.0

available total supplies in the world for future use would be misleading for a number of reasons. The potential oil fields of the world have as

Venezuela whose (nearly) entire production is dependent on export.

EMMENNAR.