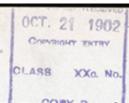
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THE HISTORY OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY

BY IDA M. TARBELL

Author of "The Life of Lincoln"

CHAPTER I-THE BIRTH OF AN INDUSTRY

Pennsylvania, not over fifty miles long, a waste place of the earth, it had revolu-

known the world over as the Oil Regions. Twelve years before, this strip of land had been but little better than a wilderness its only inhabitants the lumbermen, who every season cut great swaths of primeval pine and hemlock from its hills, and in the spring floated them down the Allegheny River to Pittsburg. The great tides of Western emigration had shunned the spot for years as too rugged and unfriendly for settlement, and yet in twelve years this region avoided by men had been transformed into a bustling trade center, where towns elbowed

the for place into

NE of the busiest corners of the uct, petroleum, which had made this change globe at the opening of the year from wilderness to market-place. This prod-1872 was a strip of Northwestern uct in twelve years had not only peopled

> tionized the world's methods of illumination and added millions upon millions of dollars to the wealth of the United

States.

GEORGE H. BISSELL

Petroleum as a curiosity was no new thing. For more than two hundred years it had been described in the journals of Western explorers. For decades it had been dipped up from the surface of springs, soaked up by blankets from running streams, found in quantities when salt wells were bored, bottled and sold as a cure-all-"Seneca Oil" or "Rock Oil," it was called. One man had even distilled it in a crude way, and sold it as an illu-