LAW OFFICES
FULTON BRYLAWSKI
JENIFER BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.
TELEPHONES MAIN 865-866

FEB 23 1922

Register of Copyrights,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

I herewith respectfully request the return of the following named motion picture films deposited by me for registration of copyright in the name of

A. E. Watts

MEXICO AND ITS OIL (4 reels)

Respectfully,

FULTON BRYLAWSKI

TheA. E. Watts hereby acknowledges the receipt of two copies each of the motion picture films deposited and registered in the Copyright Office as follows:

Title	Date of Deposit	Registration
MEXICO AND ITS OIL	2/23/22	M: ©CLM 2113

Copies Returned
FEB 24 1922
Delivered in person

The return of the above copies was requested by the said company, by its agent and attorney, on the 23d day of February, 1922, and the said Fulton Brylawski for himself and as the duly authorized agent and attorney of the said company, hereby acknowledges the delivery to him of said copies and the receipt thereof.

O.K.-E.F.T.

Fulton Brylawski

FEB 24 1922

FEB 23 1922

©CLM 2113

"MEXICO, AND ITS OIL"

Motion picture in four reels

Produced under the direction of United States Bureau of Mines in co-operation with the Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation

Author of the motion picture (under Sec. 62) A. E. Watts of the U. S.

FEB 23 1922

N Title: MEXICO AND ITS OIL ©CLM 2113

Ad - 1a This picture was produced under the direction of the United States Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior.

Ad - 1b In cooperation with Sinclair Consolidated Oil Corporation. Copyright 1921, by A. W. Watts.

1. Tampico, situated on the Gulf of Mexico, is the greatest Petroleum port in the world.

2. In less than ten years, Tampico's population increased from less than 20,000 to more than 125,000. This rapid growth has been due almost entirely to the petroleum industry.

3. The city is on the Panuco river, about five miles from the ocean. The Panuco is a deep stream, navigable for miles by the largest freight vessels which foregather here from every corner of the globe.

4. "The Windjammer" still plays an important part in ocean commerce, particularly in coastwise trade.

5. The market place of the city is a never ending source of interest to visitors. Here everything imaginable is on sale -- even drinking water.

6. Many fine residences have been established in Tampico.

7. Tampico is the Great Headquarters of the Mexican oil industry. There are two distinct fields of operation, the Panuco district,

8. and the "Southern" district.

9. Most of the southern district is mountainous and overgrown with dense tropical foliage.

10. Most of the unskilled laborers employed by oil companies in Mexico are Indians, who take their families wherever they go. Their homes are often built in the shadow of a derrick.

11. A Mexican Indian "oil town" at the noon hour.

12. Bamboo is plentiful and a house of this material can be quickly built, entire villages sometimes springing up within a forthight.

13. Five - gallon oil cans are everywhere in evidence. The Indian women find they are more serviceable than the artistic but heavy native pottery.

14. Petroleum seeps from the earth in many places in Mexico, the lighter parts of the oil evaporating and leaving sticky pools which for generations were a menace to animals and also to men. When once entrapped, struggling is useless and the most powerful soon sinks from sight.

15. The first known attempt to utilize the petroleum of Mexico was by extracting asphalt from the oil. An asphalt plant was established close to an oil seepage more than a generation ago by the London-Boston Company, supposed to have been financed by Cecil Rhodes.

16. Seepage oil evidently was placed in these retorts where the natural process of evaporation was quickened. When the lighter products were dissipated in the air, asphalt remained.

17. Though the plant has long been abandoned, the seepage remains active, gas pressure constantly forcing oil to the surface.

18. Other unsuccessful attempts were made by foreign interests to utilize the petroleum of Mexico. Test wells were drilled in Mexico more than twenty-five years ago. Some of the old rigs still remain where they were abandoned.

19. The discarded bailer - when compared with the bailers used today it is ridiculously small.

20. Americans were the first to drill a commercially successful oil well in Mexico. An estimate in El Universal, Mexico City, July 2, 1920, places the total petroleum investment in that country at $300,000,000 (excluding investment in tank ships) divided as follows: American, about 70%, British-Dutch 27%, Mexican and other interests 3%.

21. Transportation of supplies is one of the great problems in the production of oil in Mexico. Practically everything must be imported - machinery, pipe, tools, lumber and even food stuffs and forage.

22. Unloading supplies from an oil tanker at Tampico.

23. Barges play an important part in transportation. It is possible to move supplies about half the distance from Tampico to the southern fields through inland waterways.

24. From these river landings supplies are moved by motor truck and mule teams. The ferries are primitive but they serve their purpose.

25. On the road to Zacamixtle.

26. Tractors are almost indispensable and all day long the roar of their exhaust can be heard as they struggle up the steep hills with their ten-ton loads.

27. ~~A sixteen-wheel wagon with a twenty-ton load.~~

28. Zacamixtle.

29. But there are locations which even the tractor cannot reach. A stiff pull on a hot day.

30. Narrow guage railroads serve for the longer hauls from the coast. The oil companies have at their own expense constructed about 162 miles of these lines.

31. The oil country is dotted with small supply stations which serve the outlying camps.

32. In the permanent camps the living quarters are comfortable and attractive.

33. Approximately 200 tons of material must be transported for the drilling of one well. This derrick when completed will contain more than 35,000 feet of lumber.

34.

34. All wells in Mexico are drilled with so-called "Standard" rigs, though drilling is sometimes started with "rotary" outfits. A "standard" rig. The derrick is about ninety feet high.

35. In "rotary" drilling the drilling tools revolve; with a "standard" rig, the tools are alternately raised and dropped, so that they deliver direct blows against the rock or earth.

36. Pulling the tools.

37. Water seeps into the well or is admitted from the surface and at intervals the crumbled rock and water are bailed out. Running the bailer.

38. A "showing" of oil.

39. After bailing out, drilling is resumed.

40. The oil coming from the well before drilling is completed is stored temporarily within earthen embankments.

41. OIL!

42. The well is allowed to flow freely until it has cleared itself of rocks and other obstructions. The valves on the casing are then closed, shutting off the flow.

43. Big producing oil wells in Mexico come in with tremendous pressure. In order to avoid delaying the workmen in making quick connections with the pipe line, it has been found economical to dismantle the rigand to chop down the derrick as soon as the well has been "shut in".

44.

45. Connecting the well with the pipe line.

46. Oil is run through gas separators in the pipe line in order to remove its gas content.

47. The gas is not needed locally and it, of course, cannot be exported, so it is burned.

48. The gas flares light the country for miles.

49. After the gas is removed, the oil is piped to the coast. Here are eight pipe lines being rushed to completion in order to serve new producing wells.

50. In laying an oil pipe line, the lengths of pipe are screwed together. A pipe line gang at work.

51.

52. Some famous oil wells of Mexico.

53. The grave yard of an oil well, Dos Bocas #3, drilled by S. Pierson & Sons. The well came in unexpectedly July 4, 1908, and immediately caught fire. It is now a lake of boiling salt water.

54. A regiment of soldiers was sent to throw up earthen embankments to prevent the oil from spreading. Great fissures appeared in the earth and teams and equipment were engulfed. The well burned until late in August when it suddenly went to water.

55. The dark scum on the water is oil. The bubbling salt water has a temperature of about 162 degrees F. Attempts to measure the depth of this lake have been unsuccessful.

56. Casiana #7, completed September, 1910, by Huasteca Petroleum Company, subsidiary of Mexican Petroleum Company. It is estimated that this well yielded about 70,000,000 barrels of oil before it ceased producing in 1919. The picture shows the valves closed, with water escaping. It is planned to plug the hole.

57. Potrero del Llano #4, completed December, 1910, by Mexican Eagle Oil Company. This well ceased production in December, 1918, after yielding 102,000,000 barrels of oil. The mound at the left is the concrete reinforcement used to keep the well under control. The derrick marks a later attempt to find oil on this location.

58. The well went wild, flowing at the rate of about 110,000 barrels daily. Seven earthen reservoirs were used to retain this oil. This one contains about 5,000,000 barrels.

59. Zurita #3. One of the biggest wells in the Panuco field, drilled in 1915 by Freeport & Mexican Fuel Oil Corporation, and a steady producer for years. Note the precaution taken against possible damage.

60. No. 3, Amatlan, drilled by Mexican Sinclair Petroleum Corporation. This well came in wrecking the derrick, in the autumn of 1920. The flow of oil was at the rate of 60,000 barrels daily. Pipe line connections were made in record time.

61. Two valves, each capable of withstanding a pressure of 2,500 pounds per square inch, are used to control the flow of oil into the pipe line. In this case, enough oil is permitted to flow through the valves to exert a pressure of 400 pounds per square inch.

62. Toteco #1, drilled by International Petroleum Company of Maine, affiliated with the Mexican Seaboard and Sinclair companies, came in on Lincoln's birthday, 1921, flowing gas at an estimated rate of 200,000,000 cubic feet daily, or enough to meet all the gas requirements of Greater New York.

63. The roar of escaping gas could be heard for miles. The gas flow continued for about twenty days, when oil appeared. Shortly afterward the flow of oil was reported as about 40,000 barrels a day. Even before oil actually appeared, a pipe line was rushed through the jungle to the well, so that connections were made almost immediately.

64.

65. The Panuco river, which flows through the Panuco district, is navigable for many miles but its course is serpentine, a river steamer traveling more than 60 miles to cover a distance of about 30 miles as the crow flies.

66. The Panuco River is celebrated the world over for its tarpon fishing.

67. An 85-pound tarpon.

68. A yellow tail.

69. Speed boats are becoming almost as common on the Panuco as the dugout canoe, one of the most ancient types of water transport still popular with the natives of Mexico

70. Shallow-draft river war vessels used by General Allenby's army in Asia Minor have found their way to Mexico and are now employed in towing oil barges.

71. Stern-wheel packet boats have proved especially serviceable on the Panuco. Some of these boats were plying the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers more than 50 years ago.

72. Each of these barges is loaded with 7,500 barrels of crude oil.

73. The movement of oil from Panuco to Tampico has been quickened by the construction of the Sinclair pipe line from Panuco to El Barco. This line shortens the distance about 25 miles and doubles the delivery capacity of river craft.

74. One of the pumps at Zurita station.

75. Sixty pound steam pressure at the pump sends oil through the line with a pressure of 500 pounds to the square inch.

76. This system was designed to pump 11° gravity oil.

77. Each revolution of this pump forces a barrel of oil through the pipe line. It makes 20 revolutions a minute, forcing the oil a distance of 11 miles.

78. Measuring the stroke of the oil piston.

79. The heater pit where the oil is brought to a high temperature in order that it will flow readily.

80. El Barco loading station at end of pipe line. From this station the oil is carried in barges to the ocean terminal, Tampico.

81. Ocean terminal at Tampico, where oil can be loaded into tank ships at the rate of 8,000 barrels an hour.

82. The terminal is a city in itself. In addition to the oil storage and pumping equipment, there are homes for workmen, machine shops, store houses, a club house, hospital, school, power house and facilities for repairing ships and building barges.

83. Launching an oil barge.

84. The exited sponsor ready to smash a bottle of chapopote (crude oil).

85. Mexico in 1920 produced 163,540,000 barrels of crude petroleum, or 23½% of the world's total oil exports from Mexico by tank ships were 145,508,949 barrels. Tank ship leavingin Tampico for New York Harbor with 70,000 barrels of oil.

This document is from the Library of Congress
"Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, 1912-1977"

Collections Summary:

The Motion Picture Copyright Descriptions Collection, Class L and Class M, consists of forms, abstracts, plot summaries, dialogue and continuity scripts, press kits, publicity and other material, submitted for the purpose of enabling descriptive cataloging for motion picture photoplays registered with the United States Copyright Office under Class L and Class M from 1912-1977.

Class L Finding Aid:
https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi020004

Class M Finding Aid:
https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mbrsmi/eadmbrsmi.mi021002

National Audio-Visual Conservation Center
The Library of Congress