THE TECH

THE TECH, BOSTON, MASS., NOVEMBER 3, 1913.

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ENGINEERING AND SCIENTIFIC NOTES

Natural-gas production has become one of the leading industries of the United States, and to this increasing extent belongs the credit of making natural gas a commercial product. It is the residue of fuels—cleaner, more convenient, and more efficient for almost any purpose than any other fuel. Were it possible to transport natural gas as coal, petroleum, or other fuels now are transported, it would be the leading fuel of the world and its value would probably exceed that of any other commodity. And enormous quantities are wasted annually, quantities too great even to be estimated, and it is with the greatest difficulty that interest can be aroused in the importance of conserving this valuable fuel and in preventing the exhaustion of the fields. Although steps have been taken in some localities to prevent waste, it still goes on.

The utilization of waste gas from the oil wells in different parts of the United States has been an important means of conserving this fuel, and the increasing number of plants erected for the extraction of gasoline from this "casing-head gas" was one of the most important features of the natural-gas industry during the year 1912.

The year was one of great prosperity to the natural-gas producers and a record-breaker for output, according to B. Hill, of the United States Geological Survey. The total estimated consumption of natural gas in the United States in 1912 was 562,000,000 cubic feet, valued at $443,503,957, an average price of 15.04 cents, in 1911. On the assumption that 28,000 cubic feet of gas equals in heating power 1 ton of coal, the fuel displaced by gas consumed in 1912 was equivalent to approximately 20,000,000 tons of coal.

One feature of especial interest is the year 1912 was the completion of the pipe line which is to convey natural gas from the Kern County, Cal., to consumers of the Los Angeles and the surrounding towns. This pipe line was built under great difficulties and at tremendous cost. It is expected that the completion of the compressor with which is being built in the Midway field this line will be put into operation.

DOUBLES FINALS SOON

That Winter Suit or Overcoat

Two Teams Left In Annual Fall Tennis Tournament.

The doubles of the tennis tournament are fast approaching a close, the second match in the semi-final round having been played Saturday afternoon. Some time this week the finals will be played on the Jarvis Field courts at Harvard. The match will be between Hurhurt and Fay and Warren and Foley. The first two are Seniors, while Warren is a Junior and his partner a Freshman. The contest will be three out of five advantage sets.

In the semi-finals Hurhurt and Fay defeated Kingsbury and Row in the upper bracket while in the lower side Warren and Foley defeated Blakeney and Carr.

A Canadian newspaper, the Montreal Daily Mail, has signified its appearance in the newspaper world by employing an aeroplane to carry off its first issue from Montreal to Ottawa, Canada.