

## CHAPTER IV

### PETROLEUM

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#### JAPAN

BECAUSE of the rapid growth of industrialization in Japan and the increasing fuel requirements of that country, the search for oil in the empire has been as intensive as in any other part of the world, and a number of petroleum fields have been developed. These are situated principally along the coast of the Sea of Japan, where there are now over 20 separate producing areas.

Oil has thus far been found only in geologic formations of Tertiary age, chiefly Miocene and Pliocene. The areas of Tertiary sedimentary rocks are chiefly confined to a belt bordering the western margin of the archipelago, where the oil occurs in the main in anticlinal structures with a trend parallel to the general coast line. Outside of this Tertiary belt, in the central and eastern parts of the islands, the geological conditions are distinctly less favorable for oil accumulation. That large areas of volcanic rocks exist is common knowledge; and most of the areas of sedimentary rocks older than the Tertiary have been closely folded and are more or less metamorphosed. The presence of oil deposits in rocks of this character is improbable and these regions cannot be regarded as containing commercial oil reserves.

Outside of the Japanese archipelago proper a little oil has been found in Taiwan (Formosa). The output has been very disappointing and the discovery of any large fields in this island is improbable. A large gas field has been developed in the last few years, the gas being utilized for electric power development and in oil refining.

Japanese Sakhalin (Karafuto) contains some areas of Tertiary rocks, but these are closely folded. The older rocks are for the most part metamorphosed. The oil possibilities