

Mr. BOWIE. That is set up in the engineer's report.

Mr. CULKIN. Do the waves from the Gulf sweep through there when the wind is from the east?

Mr. BOWIE. No; the waves would not come over Padre Island; the canal is codirectional with the general prevailing direction of the wind.

Mr. CULKIN. Nature almost dug the canal.

Mr. BOWIE. That is true.

Mr. RANKIN. How much oil do you produce around Corpus Christi?

Mr. BOWIE. I am not from Corpus Christi; I am from Port Isabel.

I have a statement here from the oil reporting sources in the Rio Grande Valley, which says that in these fields—I have marked all tributary to Port Isabel, with some of them running oil to Corpus Christi—in these fields produced in the first 6 months of last year at the rate of 5,400,000 barrels a year.

Now, gentlemen, there were no oil wells in operation in that territory prior to 7 years ago. That is all new development.

As I stated to the committee earlier, the refinery at Port Isabel is closed down, that pipe line is closed down, and all that storage in the Rio Grande Valley is filled. The oil is being backed up into the field.

All of the oil wells will have to close down because we have no tanker service, and that means that the United States Government cannot get this high octane gas, and we cannot produce the heating oil necessary to heat the East, and that brings about a calamity to the oil industry, and eventually it will bring about a calamity to the people in the East.

Mr. RANKIN. The amount of 5,400,000 barrels a year would be about 18,000 barrels a day.

Mr. BOWIE. Yes. I would like to say further, gentlemen, that the production in this field is on a pro rata restricted basis.

Over a year ago, 18 months ago, the interests who control large acreage here borrowed \$15,000,000 to develop that field and had their plans laid to bring in so many wells per month. We had promised to the Rio Grande Valley another refinery in addition to the Port Isabel refinery, and costing \$2,000,000. They started the building of a 1,000,000-barrel storage capacity at Brownsville, but when water shipping facilities grew scarce their further investment was stopped. We did not get that development of the great fields up there, and all over the Rio Grande Valley the people are suffering.

Colonel Thompson the other day made a statement as to the number of people in Texas interested in the oil industry and the number of people affected directly by production of oil. This map here [indicating map], gentlemen, is prepared to show the condition of the oil business in the Rio Grande, and these various colors represent the different holdings by the major companies in the valley.

Every major company in the United States has leased land in the lower Rio Grande Valley. During the past 6 or 7 years they have developed these fields marked in black. You can see that the whole area appears to be a huge oil field, and located right up against the cheapest transportation highway in the world, the ocean.

Mr. RANKIN. Had Congress gone along with us at the time, we would have had this canal across Florida and that bottleneck would not exist now. If we had gone on a year ago and passed the river