

sulphur per day. From borings made by the company to ascertain the amount of sulphur in that vicinity, they figure that they have fully forty million tons of sulphur underlying their holdings. A novel process for getting out the sulphur is done by superheated water being forced through a pipe into the sulphur. This water melts the sulphur which, being the heavier, falls to the bottom of the pit and is pumped up in a liquid form. The melted sulphur is put into large vats which cover almost an entire acre from six to eight feet deep, where it solidifies, and is then broken up and loaded on cars and shipped to all parts of the world. We are now underselling Europe in sulphur, and to visit this grand mine and watch the development of the sulphur industry is a great sight.

As early as 1791 salt was made from the springs of Avery Island in the fine old parish of Iberia, but the wonderful salt mine was not developed until years after. It was in 1862 that they began to work this grand mine, and they are now getting out from eight hundred to one thousand tons daily, with the most improved machinery. We have salt in other parts of Louisiana, and as soon as our State is intersected with railroads, they will begin to work numerous other hidden mines. The thickness and purity of our salt outranks any so far discovered in this country.

Another great natural resource that is just in its infancy in our State is our oil and natural gas. The oil industry in the parish of Caddo is being well developed, and last year and up to the present time produced from five to six million barrels, and recently, while in the vicinity of Shreveport, I was astonished to see so much activity along these lines, and I was informed by parties that the oil business had just started, and Louisiana may yet outrival Pennsylvania in the production of oil. We have it in other parishes—in Calcasieu and Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin and other places that are to be developed.

Another great source of revenue in this State is our oyster beds, of almost a million acres, which are gradually being developed by our Oyster Commission, and in a few years should add materially to our State's revenue.

Our game and fisheries are the finest in the world, and last year over a million dollars was made from this alone, and with a judicious handling will be one of our greatest industries. Our Game and Fish Commission is trying its best to protect our birds and fish, so as to give us more to eat, but some of our people won't see it in that way. This Commission has made a great success for the first two years, and with a few changes to meet growing demands, it will be all right. We must have certain restrictions, otherwise we would have no game.

We have vast deposits of gravel in Louisiana,

which are being used extensively in railroad ballasting and good roads surfacing.

We have fine clay for brick making and pottery work. Up in the great parish of Winn, they have a fine marble quarry, which is just becoming a fine producer. We also have coal and iron in Louisiana. We have in the large parishes of St. Landry and Winn large deposits of limestone, and in the rivers through the Florida Parishes we have large deposits of white sand, which in the near future will have quite a value for glass manufacturing purposes. Along the banks of our inland lakes we have magnificent beds of shells which have value for road making and concrete work. We have large deposits of lignite or brown coal in some of our upper parishes, which in days to come will be developed. We have fine artesian wells and water from Abita and Covington is shipped all around—and our artesian well here in Baton Rouge is the finest in the country.

I am glad to extend a welcome to you, ladies, and ask your co-operation in the development of our lands and our forests. Keep up your good work with your civic clubs for the up building and beautifying of our towns. Everyone appreciates your help, and it is only through meetings of this kind that we are able to show what old Louisiana can do. And we are interested in our National Water Ways, and you must continue your work to help develop all of our rivers and bayous. We have over three thousand two hundred and twenty-eight miles of water ways in this State alone, and if they were developed and made navigable, they would not only give us wonderful facilities for handling all of our produce and freight, but would cheapen household utilities by having competitive freight rates.

Another thing which is attracting more than passing attention is the health of our State. From the health statistics filed last month with the National Government, New Orleans compared to a fraction with the great city of Boston the Hub. Where they have of everything to add to the welfare of mankind. A few years ago, when a man was leaving the North, and was coming to settle in our State, his friends would hold a regular wake over at his house at night, thinking that they would never see him again, but after he came to sunny Louisiana, and stayed awhile, he found our State as healthy as any other place, and our conditions very much misrepresented.

Our State lands are becoming very scarce for the reason that the State has granted nearly another vacant swamp lands to the various levee boards, but we have a number of acres of cut over or denuded pine, hardwood and cypress lands, which are magnificent for farming and can be purchased all the way from \$1.00 to \$30.00 per acre, which will produce two crops per year. We have some very large bodies of dried lake lands, which