

Przemysł naftowy w Polsce w XIX i XX wieku

The oil industry in Poland in the 19th and 20th centuries

SUMMARY

The Polish pools are situated in the south of the country in the Carpathian plateau. In the 19th century this part of Poland occupied by Austria was called Galicia with the capital in Lwów (now Ukraine). In 1853, working in one of Lwów pharmacies, Ignacy Łukasiewicz (1822-1882) managed to, for the first time in the world, obtain kerosene by refining petroleum (originating from natural Borysław wells). The same year he has constructed the kerosene lamp, thus preceding by two years the invention of such a lamp in the United States. In July 1853 the first surgical operation under the light of Łukasiewicz's lamp was executed at a Lwów hospital. From 1853 Łukasiewicz prospected for petroleum deposits in the Carpathian region. In 1854 he stated the first oil well in Krosno, in 1856 he build the first petroleum refinery, five years before the Americans. The article discussed his industrial and social activities.

Lectures on petroleum industry at the Technical University in Lwów were given since 1872 and the first Experimental Station for Oil Industry was organised at the University in 1855. In 1878 Bronisław Radziszewski, professor of the Lwów University (ten years before K. Englert) formulated the hypothesis of the organic origin of petroleum Stanisław Piłat (1881-1941) from 1924 head of the Chair of Petroleum Technology the Technical University in Lwów, created a scientific team for study of the physical chemistry of petroleum processing. His technological solutions were put into life in Poland, Rumania, Mexico and the United States. Piłat was murdered in July 1941 by the Nazi occupants together with 28 other Polish university professors. Current work on petroleum processing in Poland is shortly reported as well.

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