



Flare pit fires send up 20th century smoke signals signifying the birth of Australia's new oil industry

To Australia which did not produce a drop of crude, but imports £125,000,000 worth a year, this news is tremendously significant and exciting. Expenditure on oil is one of the biggest items on Australia's import bill—about one-tenth of the total.

An oil industry in Australia would create new employment and demand for equipment such as pumps, valves, pipelines, storage tanks which would promote great expansion of manufacturing industries. The demand for roads, airstrips, power and water supplies and other public utilities would add to the tempo of Australia's development.

Strategically the establishment of an Australian oil industry will eliminate or reduce the nation's dependence on foreign sources. Australia's defence planning is now based on importation of crude oil over long sea routes vulnerable to enemy attack.

The establishment of a great refining industry has made Australia self-sufficient in refining capacity, but has done nothing to ensure supplies of crude oil in an emergency.

The prospect of large commercial oil deposits being found in Australia, therefore, has tremendous economic and strategic significance.

OUR COVER GIRL HELPS OUT

Cover Girl, Coral Dodd at work at Walgett Aboriginal Station where she assists Matron Mason in the first-aid treatment centre. The patients in our pictures are, (left) Margaret Ward, who is receiving attention for a wound on the chin cut while playing, (right) Diana Dennis, Louisa Dodd and Lola Sharply

