

deals with the two-hundred-odd roads which make up the Burlington system, and they are each miniatures of the entire collection in being, for the most part, complete accounts of brief existence as separate corporations.

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A History of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana

Dr. Paul H. Giddens, professor of history and political science at Allegheny College, has undertaken to write a history of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. He has been granted a leave of absence from his teaching duties and is already at work in the records of the company at its home office in Chicago.

According to a statement of the Indiana Company officials, Dr. Giddens and his assistants will have "complete academic freedom in determining facts and publishing findings." All company records will be made available, and the researchers are free to seek material wherever it may be found. The project is being financed through a substantial grant to Allegheny College by the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

This is a significant project. It is a notable illustration of the growing coöperation of scholar and business in making available to the general public information concerning the development of American enterprise. Moreover, the facts that the company has been in existence about sixty years and that its operations extend over 15 North Central States and are represented by subsidiaries and affiliates in 25 other States indicate that its influence and experience have been relatively long in time, extensive both functionally and geographically, and that its history will have a broad significance. The project will contribute specifically to our knowledge of the history of the petroleum industry.

Dr. Giddens has special qualifications for work in this particular

field. He has published several books on the early history of the petroleum industry in the United States. As curator of the Drake Museum at Titusville, Pennsylvania, he has been largely responsible for bringing together the largest collection of materials in the country on the early history of the oil industry. In addition he has for some time urged the importance of studying the history of the petroleum industry as a significant but neglected field of study, as is illustrated by his address at the annual meeting of the American Petroleum Institute in 1945 which was published in this BULLETIN.¹

¹ Paul H. Giddens, "History Looks at Oil," BULLETIN OF THE BUSINESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, vol. xx, no. 1 (Feb., 1946), pp. 3-16.