

WILL PERSIA TAKE OVER OIL?

Abadan, the world's largest oil refinery which which British enterprise and money built, may pass out of British control if Persia carries out the vote for nationalisation passed by their Parliament. In the barren, arid mountains of Khasistan - in land where no crop would grow - in land that was just so much waste to Persia, British prospectors looked for oil. And only after seven years did they find it in commercial quantities. There were no roads in the wild places where oil was found; they had to be built to carry the heavy equipment to bring the oil to the surface.

Huge derricks had to be built to strike the riches of the earth. Huge power plants were needed so that when the derrick was built there would be power enough to send the cutting bit - maybe two miles down.

A hundred and fifty miles to the coast, the oil must be moved. Great pipe-lines were laid through the mountains, and Abadan (an unknown desert spot) became one of the great oil-ports of the world. To thousands of Persians British enterprise brought well-paid work in good conditions. A vast modern town grew to make life pleasant. Schools for the children; classes to train Persians to better jobs; hospitals, sanitation; food production units, all these the company provided from the oil shipped abroad. Successive Governments in Persia have co-operated with the British. Let's hope that the Persians will not allow themselves to be intimidated by fanatics into a rash act which will lead to disaster for both countries.