



# OIL NEWS

Special to the Register

Parkersburg, W. Va., February 9 — The big suit between Messrs. George K. Gilmore and Baer & Alford, in which the plaintiff asks to recover his share of the sale of \$135,000 worth of oil land in the Ogden field, is now on trial at Circuit Court here and oil men are taking a great deal of interest in the suit.

The Henderhot field comes to the front with an important point concerning the ownership of the Jack Masters lease, and some costly litigation will likely follow. Mallory Bros., of Sistersville, were given a lease on the farm about March 10, 1896. Later in the month Masters leased to George Boss a part of the farm. Boss sold the lease to Fred Rich, and Rich later sold it to Baer & Alford and Wm. Ford, of Wheeling. The latter drilled two good wells on the lease and were starting a third when they were informed by Mallory Bros. that they were on their lease.

In the meantime, Masters also leased another piece of the farm, one and three-fourths acres, to Deem & Co., and they drilled one good well on their lease. When the matter between Baer & Alford and Ford and Mallory Bros. became known, there was nothing for the former firm to do but to relinquish their claims on the lease. Mallory Bros. paid them for the two wells they had drilled, and that feature of the case was settled with the exception that Baer & Alford and Ford will endeavor to collect the rentals, etc., they have paid Masters.

It is thought that the trouble over the one and three-fourths acre tract will not be settled so easily, as it is said that Masters did not have a clear title to the tract when he leased it to Mallory, and did not get it until August, before which he leased to Deem & Co.

Attorney James Hutchinson, of this city, also had a claim on the tract, he having sold the royalty to Deem & Co. and to J. W. Kelly. The outcome of the trouble will be watched with a great deal of interest by the local oil men, as the property involved is as rich as any in the county.

OIL CITY, Pa., February 9 — Credit balances, 90c. certificates, no bids, shipments, 97 1/2 barrels, none, 100 1/2 barrels.

NEW YORK, February 9 — Pennsylvania crude steady, March 22 1/2c bid.