

At sixty-four feet distant is the principal escape orifice of the well. From a tube three inches in diameter, a column of fire forty feet high shoots forth with a roar that fairly makes the hills tremble. During a calm night the noise can be heard at a distance of fifteen miles. At four miles, the sound resembles that of a railroad train crossing a bridge near at hand, and finally, as the escape orifice is reached, the roar is like that of a thousand locomotives blowing off steam together. At the well, in a tube of five and five-eighths inches, the pressure is about one hundred pounds per square inch; in a tube of two inches, in which the gas is led to Freeport, fifteen miles distant, the pressure is one hundred and twenty-five pounds. The ascending velocity is one thousand seven hundred feet per second, and if this be multiplied by the area of the tube, 24.7 square inches, a yield of two hundred and eighty-nine cubic feet per second, or about one million cubic feet per hour, is determined. This is one thousand four hundred and eight tons of gas daily. This, for heating purposes, is estimated as equivalent to two thousand tons of bituminous coal.

A year ago, the daily consumption of natural gas for fuel purposes in the city of Pittsburgh, was fifteen to twenty million cubic feet. The Consolidated Fuel Gas and Penn Fuel companies were delivering from Murrysville, through four lines of pipe, ten million cubic feet per day. Another line then building was intended to increase the flow to fifteen or seventeen million cubic feet. The Washington Gas company had a pipe line twenty miles in length from the famous McGingan well in Washington County. To this they were adding an eight-inch line, which would increase their capacity to five million feet. The Philadelphia company was then constructing three gigantic lines—one from Murrysville, another from Tarentum, and a third from the famous Westinghouse wells at Homewood, within the city limits. These lines would have a combined capacity of about thirty million feet per day. The Carpenter company were arranging to deliver four million, and the Chambers company three million cubic feet.