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PROGRESS IN THE LAW OF OIL AND GAS

IT is perhaps not an unmixed blessing that the law as to sub-
jacent minerals is seldom static, even under "normal" peace-
time conditions. Whether this attribute of continuous change is
inherent in the very nature of the subject, or whether (like the
weather) it is caused by conditions beyond present human con-
trol, one need not say. The essential thing is that modifications
in legal doctrine do constantly occur, contemporaneously with
improvements in the technical art of production and marketing;
and their significance is worthy of note from time to time, either
as indicative of substantial progress or because the break with
the past has been so marked. In any event, recent developments
in the law of oil and gas now deserve comment here, since these
are of vital importance to local industry.

1. STATUTORY FORFEITURE FOR NONPAYMENT OF DELAY RENTAL.

Legal theory as to the rights and liabilities of oil and gas
operators is nearly all judge-made; by and large, legislatures have