

From *Tägliche Berichte über die Petroleumindustrie* (“Daily Reports on the Petroleum Industry”), issue 205, Monday 25th October 1937

Personae

On 25th October this year Dr. Max Böhm celebrates his 80th Birthday in Moravia-Ostrava in full possession of his physical and mental powers.

Born in Vienna the son of a distinguished industrialist family, after completing secondary school studies he attended the engineering department of the Polytechnic in Zurich, and then studied chemistry at the Technische Hochschule in Karlsruhe with Professor Privy- Councillor Engler. Here he wrote his thesis “Contributions to the Knowledge of Galician Petroleum”, on the basis of which he was awarded his Ph.D. by the University of Freiburg im Breisgau. From his time as a student of Councillor Dr. Engler, whom he accompanied with Dr. M. Albrecht on a study in the oil fields of Baku, he formed a close friendship with him which led to scientific results. Together with Engler he developed the Engler-Böhm method for determining the presence of paraffin in petroleum, which is in current use by oil chemists in its Holdesch modification. He published several minor works with Professor Engler in the then Dingersschen polytechnic Journal. Among them was the one about the difference between natural and artificial vaselines. After a period of experience in an ozokerite refinery in Zsibo (Transylvania), he formed an association with the banking house Thorsch and in 1889 founded the Ostrava refinery, now the “Privoz oil works”, in Privoz in Moravia-Ostrava, which he still manages today. The Ostrava oil works were not only among the most highly respected undertakings of the petroleum industry in the prewar period, they have also entirely maintained their standing today in the Czech oil industry. Their founder, Dr. Max Böhm, may rightly be described as one of the pioneers of the petroleum industry of the former Austria-Hungary. Through his internationally recognized professional knowledge in the chemical and technical fields of the oil industry, Dr. Böhm enjoys both at home and abroad the well-deserved recognition of his professional circle, which was often expressed at the various conferences of the petroleum industry.

Dr. Böhm will on the occasion of his 80th birthday surely receive many greetings from his own professional circle and also from the wider Ostrava industrial area, where he enjoys a special respect and recognition: those who are among his close friends and acquaintances will join in those greetings with heartfelt joy.