

8c. a gallon without the barrels, and 11c. per gallon, barrels included. I have an instance here of how much longer Canadian oil, of the same strength, will burn than American oil. Messrs. C. S. Shaw and Company, of this city, who keep both American and Canadian oil for sale, tested the burning qualities of both oils in lamps in their store for eight consecutive nights, using one pint of each kind of oil each night, and they found that the gallon of Canadian oil had burned one-fifth longer than the American oil, or, in other words, had given thirty-five hours more light, the American gallon of oil having burned out in 110 hours, and the Canadian oil having lasted for 145 hours; and yet, in the face of all this, my hon. friend from Stanstead is trying to make it easier to import American oil to be used in this country, and to come into competition with our Canadian oil. It is to my mind most desirable that we should give our Canadian oil encouragement as far as possible. My idea was, when the National Policy passed, that we should protect our industries as long as we did not protect them to death, as one hon. gentleman has said. If through misfortune the hon. gentleman's constituents get hold of bad oil, certainly something should be done to have the inspection so fixed that a better oil would be secured, to compel people, in fact, to prepare a better oil, or see that the inferior oil is destroyed. We are desirous to have as good oil as possible, and we can have as good oil as American oil by taking a less quantity out of the crude oil. I would suggest that an Inspector be appointed by the Government, and give him absolute authority to go through the country, and wherever he finds any oil not up to the proper fire-test, that he should destroy it. That would enable us to get a first-class oil, and put us in a position not to have to go across the border to get it from a foreign country. With reference to a coal oil ring, which has been referred to, it was true that a ring did exist in the West among the refiners; but that is past. It is impossible to renew anything of the kind now; because the only way to establish the ring was through the instrumentality of the books they had to open up for the Inland Revenue. These books were

sworn to by the refiner and verified by the Inland Revenue officer, and were open to the inspection of the refiners, and they could tell exactly how many gallons were made. No Excise duty is charged now, and any combination of that kind could not exist; they could deceive each other if they chose, and the consequence is no ring has been established since the Excise duty was taken off the oil. It could not be now done with any degree of success. I feel very strongly in favour of having the fire test increased upon Canadian oil, and decreased upon American oil, that is that the test on Canadian oil be increased from 105° to 115°, and that it be decreased on American oil from 130° to 125°. In this way we will succeed in getting a good safe oil, either by importation from the United States or from Canadian manufacture; and if that regulation is established, my hon. friend will have no cause to grumble. Mr. Charles A. Ashburner, Assistant State Geologist for Pennsylvania, in an interesting lecture which he delivered some weeks ago at the Franklyn Institute in Philadelphia, said: that from actual records kept in the Department, over 30,000 human lives and \$20,000,000 worth of property have been destroyed during the last ten years by the use of badly refined burning oils. If we can defend ourselves against this, and in the way I suggest, I think we should use every exertion to do so, and appoint an Inspector to go through the country as I have suggested, and see that proper and safe illuminating oil is manufactured or imported and sold throughout the Dominion.

MR. CASEY: I am sure the House will agree that great credit is due to the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Colby), for bringing up this matter this year. He has applied himself, on several occasions, to this coal oil question. I cannot absolve the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue from all blame for letting the existing provision of the law go through. It is not expected that he, himself, should know all about coal oil; but he has experts in the Department, and he should know that there ought not to be any discrimination, or he should have had the subject argued.

MR. BABY: It was argued.