

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—From what I have heard and read concerning dangerous oils, I believe that when raised to a certain temperature, they will explode spontaneously. Therefore, a lamp containing bad oil, in a very warm room, is liable to explode; and we know of cases where lamps have exploded and the oil has been scattered about the room, and did serious injury.

HON. MR. DUNCAN.—Any person can test this oil by pouring a basin of it into water heated to the temperature of one hundred and twenty degrees, which is the standard at which good oil will not explode; a light must then be brought near it, and if no explosion takes place the oil is not dangerous.

HON. MR. HENDERSON.—I can see a reason why an expensive apparatus for testing those oils, when gathered in large quantities, should be employed. Water may exist at the bottom of a cask, and, therefore it must be ascertained in the inspection, whether it is present or not.

The first clause was then amended, so as to provide for the appointment of Inspectors for all the Island ports, and agreed to.

The second clause was then read.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—The law must be enforced by a heavy penalty, for bad oil is a very dangerous article. This clause merely provides that no oil shall be imported without being first inspected, and that any person who sells dangerous oil, or oil which will not stand the test of one hundred and twenty degrees, shall be liable to a fine of £100, or imprisonment not exceeding six months. I see that the same law is in force in Nova Scotia.

The second clause, after being slightly amended, was then agreed to.

Several clauses read and agreed to.

MR. P. SINCLAIR.—I have not said anything on this bill, for I did not understand this subject; but I do not think it will give much satisfaction in the country. I think this bill should have come from the Mayor and Councillors of Charlottetown, for it is in the City where large quantities of kerosene oil are stored, that it is dangerous.

HON. MR. DAVIES.—I do not think there is much danger except in Charlottetown, and I think if any danger is likely to arise here, that the Mayor and Councillors will take action on the matter. If inspectors are appointed for all the outports, it will be considerable expense. There is a party whose interest it is to make people believe this oil is dangerous, and thus prevent its use as much as possible, and that is the Gas Company. From a fear of accidents by using this oil, I have had gas introduced into my house, and now have to pay five pounds for as much light as would be produced by twenty shillings worth of kerosene oil. As far as the country is concerned, I do not

think there is any necessity for having the oil inspected.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—This bill provides that the Government shall appoint inspectors where they may think proper. If there is a necessity for a bill of this kind in the other Provinces, I think it is just as much required here, especially for this town, which is built almost entirely of wood, and therefore much exposed to fires. I was in Portland after the great fire which happened there two years ago, and I saw a granite building—the Custom House—which had been exposed to the fire, and the intense heat had such an effect on the granite, that it crumbled as if it had been melted. Now, if such an inflammable substance as some of this oil is, was in such a building as that, which we would think entirely fire proof, the heat would cause it to explode.

The last clause was agreed to, after which the Speaker took the Chair, and the Chairman reported the bill agreed to, with certain amendments.

Ordered to be engrossed.

House adjourned.

THURSDAY, April 15th.

*Forenoon Session.*

On motion of the hon. Leader of the Government, the Bill to secure telegraphic Communication was read a third time and passed.

On motion of the hon. Leader of the Government, the Act to provide for the inspection of Petroleum Oil and Burning Fluid, and to regulate the sale and manufacture thereof, was read a third time and passed.

ELECTION LAWS.

On motion of hon. Mr. Laird, the House resolved itself into a Committee of the whole to resume the consideration of the petitions to amend the Election Law.

Mr. Cameron in the Chair.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT said that as there was a considerable discussion on this matter when the petitions relating to it were before the House, it was not likely there would be much discussion at this late period of the session. He then submitted the following Resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the Act 21st Vic. Cap 34, be so amended as to provide for the establishment of another polling division in the Fifth Electoral District of Prince County.

The Resolution was agreed to, and on motion of hon. Mr. Laird, a Committee was appointed to bring in a Bill in accordance with said resolution.

HON. MR. HOWLAN alluded to a petition that had been presented by hon. Mr. Laird, from divers