

CUSTOM HOUSE, NORTH SYDNEY, September 6th, 1879.

The Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—I respectfully intimate that the General Mining Association of this place are negotiating with a Boston house for some casks of kerosine oil. Should the oil arrive at this port, in the absence of an inspector, what steps will I take in the matter ?

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) A. G. HAMILTON, *Collector*.

19th September, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, North Sydney, N.S.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, I beg leave to state that, as I presume you are furnished with Potter's pyrometer, you can test the oil with that instrument for fire-test. This you are authorized to do, either personally or by one of your officers qualified for the duty. The specific gravity is not so essential as the fire test rule is right to entry or otherwise.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. JOHNSON.

CUSTOM HOUSE, PORT HAWKESBURY, 8th September 1879.

The Commissioners of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—Will you please inform me at what test American coal oil is to be admitted to entry; will it require 130 degrees, as exhibited by Potter's pyrometer, and is 105 the proper test for Canadian oil by the same instrument.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) M. McDONALD, *Collector*.

P.S.—Charles Potter's pyrometer is not mentioned in the Petroleum Act; some doubt it being the proper instrument for testing.

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) M. McDONALD, *Collector*.

19th September, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, Port Hawkesbury, N.S.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, I beg leave to state that the Potter pyrometer is that adopted by this Department, and therefore the proper instrument to test oil by, and the fire test is 130 degrees for the flash for imported oil, and 105 for Canadian.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. JOHNSTON.

MONTAGUE, P.E.I., 3rd September, 1879.

Hon. MCK. BOWELL, Minister of Customs, Ottawa.

DEAR SIR,—Having some time ago imported twenty casks of good American kerosine oil, of "130° fire-test open cup," according to the certificate of the State Inspector of the City of Boston, and which oil, we at the time of ordering thought would be of sufficiently high a grade to meet the requirements of the Dominion of Canada Customs laws. We, however, now find that we are required to send it back, or have it destroyed, and as we find we must take action on the matter at once we thought of writing to you to ask if we could not hold it *until further orders*, as it is not