

Canadian oil, and consequently do more damage, and would be sure to set fire to the oil, whereas Canadian oil, at the same temperature, would not throw off such a large body of combustible vapour, and would either not explode to all, or, if it did, would not have force enough to set fire to the oil. It takes ten degrees more temperature to heat up Canadian oil to a point at which it will throw off an equal amount of explosive vapour as American oil; and, therefore, in fixing the fire test of illuminating oil in this country, to do justice to the Canadian manufacturer, there should be ten degrees of difference fixed between the flash test of Canadian and American oil, if there is any less difference than that made, you legislate in favour of the American refiner and against the Canadian oil interest. Now, the lowest point at which we consider Canadian oil safe, is 115° flash test by Fahrenheit's thermometer, therefore, the test on American oil should be 125° and no less. My hon. and learned friend from Stanstead (Mr. Colby) says that a high fire test impairs the burning qualities of the oil, and the public who prefer to burn American oil, while they are obliged to pay a higher price for it, are compelled to use an inferior article in consequence of this high fire test. In relation to that matter, I will read what the same authority I quoted before, says, on that point:

"The lighting qualities of some of the oils lately sold in this state have not been good. Some people have pretended to believe that it was because of the high fire test required by law. Those who understand the facts know that this is not true."

And then he goes on to point out the reasons why some oils do not give as good light as others, and recommends more care in keeping the lamps clean, and in the selection of burners and wicks, and winds up with paraffine, and I will read you what he says on that head:

"The presence of a superabundance of paraffine has much to do in reducing the illuminating power of the oil in which it is contained by gumming or charring up the wick, and thereby preventing a sufficient supply of oil to the wick to produce combustion."

Now, Sir, it is well known that the longer the oil is distilled the more paraffine will be in the refined oil. The cause of the burning qualities not being

good is the presence of paraffine in the refined oil, because the refiner has taken too much refined oil out of the crude, the heavy vapour containing the paraffine being the last to come off the still, and in order to get up the fire test, the refiner blows the lighter and more explosive particles out of the oil, leaving the paraffine or heavy oil, and consequently the percentage of paraffine or heavy oil becomes too great and impairs the illuminating qualities of the oil by gumming the wick. You can have a good burning illuminating oil of any fire test you like, by proper care being taken in the manufacture of it. The Legislatures of a number of states in the American Union, having a population of over 15,000,000 inhabitants, have fixed a flash test, which is much more severe than a fire test, on their own oil of 120°. In the State of New York the test is 110°, and I wish to call the hon. gentleman's attention to what took place there a few days ago. The newspaper of the district, where this accident occurred, says:

"One of the most remarkable tragedies that has occurred in this section of the state for many years took place at Norwich, Chenango County, N. Y., early last Saturday morning. Mrs. Mary E. Griffing, a wealthy widow, and cousin of Senator Conkling, was found upon the floor of the hall in her mansion horribly burned. When picked up she was unconscious, and died in about an hour. On Friday night, Mrs. Griffing, her mother, and Miss Conkling retired at 9 o'clock. The widow slept alone in a spacious chamber on the second floor. It was her custom to leave a lamp burning by her bedside. This morning about 4:30 o'clock Miss Conkling was aroused by a strange noise, and a few moments later the household was awakened by the agonising screams of Mrs. Griffing. The oil from the exploded lamp had saturated the pillow which supported the head of the victim while she was asleep. Grasping the other pillow with rare presence of mind she attempted to smother the flames. Failing in this, she sprang from the bed and rushed into the hall, where she was found as above described. She was burned beyond recognition."

In consequence of such accidents as these, the Americans themselves have raised the fire test on their own oil, and why should not we do likewise. I cannot imagine why the people in the Lower Provinces have such a prejudice against our Canadian oil. We burn it altogether in Ontario, and find it to give great satisfaction, it burns so long, and is so cheap. The best oil is now selling in London for