

ed for selling what has legally received the Government stamp.

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—I quite agree with the remarks just made by the hon. member for Belfast, (Mr. Davies). If the Inspector is allowed to mark the dangerous casks of oil, without destroying them, the law will do no good at all. The only safe course will be to make it illegal to import unsafe oils; they should not be allowed to be landed at all. If commercial men will import bad oil after the first day of July next, they will do it at their own pecuniary risk. Officers to inspect these oils should be appointed for all our Island ports; when this is done the law should be strictly enforced. People must be given to understand that if they persist in using dangerous oils, they will not get any insurance which they may have upon their property.

MR. BELL.—Suppose I ordered an article from Boston, and when it arrived here, I found it did not come up to the proper standard, what am I to do?

HON. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—If the hon. member ordered a supply of oil and it did not stand the test, and was destroyed by the Inspector, the party in Boston from whom it was purchased would be liable to pay for it.

MR. McMILLAN.—I think an Inspector should be appointed for all our Island ports. But if a bad article is sent me from Boston and on arriving here, is destroyed, how am I to get back my money from Boston?

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—If dangerous oils are allowed to pass inspection without being destroyed, merchants may keep a few casks of the good article on exhibition in their stores, while their cellars are filled with the bad article, and from which they may continually draw to supply purchasers who would not be able to distinguish between the good and the bad. This Bill is really necessary; but there will be a difficulty in getting the oil tested at the outports, because there is hardly a person on this Island who knows how to do it properly. In New Brunswick, an Inspector examines the oil before it is sent abroad; but he is provided with expensive instruments for that purpose. If inspectors are to be appointed for all the outports, a school should be established for the purpose of instructing them in the matter.

HON. LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT.—There can be no good reason why the law should not apply to all parts of this Island, for there is as much need for the inspection of dangerous oils in the country, as in town. I understand that it was the intention of the introducer of the Bill to have Inspectors appointed at all the outports. There is a complicated apparatus for testing those oils, in the Colonial Secretary's room down stairs; and from its appearance, I would judge that some experience would be required in using it properly. As soon as parties can learn the art of testing oils,

appointments should be made for Summerside, Georgetown, and the other ports in succession. Inspectors should not be appointed till men can be found who are qualified to test those dangerous oils referred to in the Bill.

HON. COLONIAL SECRETARY.—Mr. Smith, Inspector of Steamboats, of St. John, N. B., informed me that all the dangerous oils which could not be sold there found their way to this Island, because we have no law against them. Whilst here last summer, he offered to show some person how to test those oils, that after the passing of such a bill as the one before us, the latter might be ready to carry out the provisions of the law when appointed to the office of Inspector. The process of testing oils at the manufactories is pretty expensive; but I believe there is a more simple way of doing it. When Mr. Smith comes over to inspect our steamboats, he might be induced to instruct some person how to perform the operation.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—I do not think the process would be very difficult to learn. I have in my hand a description of a very simple way of testing those oils; this is nothing more than heating the oil to the required temperature, and then bringing a burning match near it. If the oil is bad an explosion takes place; but if it is good it will stand the test. From what I have heard from a gentleman acquainted with the matter, I do not think there would be any difficulty in regard to it.

MR. G. SINCLAIR.—From the remarks I first heard in reference to this matter, I began to be alarmed; but it appears that the oil must first be raised to seventy degrees of heat, and even then would not take fire, unless a lighted match was brought near it. We are not exposed to as great a danger as I supposed, for if fire is not brought near the highly heated oil no explosion will take place. It would probably be more dangerous in a store where it might come in contact with fire, than anywhere else. If the tests can be as easily applied as described by the hon. member for Tignish, any person may easily learn how to prove the dangerous oils. It is not probable there will be any of those oils manufactured here for some time to come.

HON. MR. HOWLAN.—If oil will not stand a higher degree of heat than seventy degrees Fahrenheit, there is great danger of its explosion; for in warm weather, or by the heat of a warm room, it will rise to that temperature, and if there is a light brought near it, it will explode.

MR. PROWSE.—It appears that there is a misapprehension in regard to the danger of using dangerous explosive oils. From the remarks of the hon. member for Tignish, (Mr. Howlan,) one would be led to suppose that those bad oils would not ignite without the presence of a lighted taper; but I am of the opinion that if they were heated to a certain temperature, they would explode without the presence of fire.