Revenue will see his way clear to making the inspection fee equal upon both oils.

MR. MACMILLAN: I coincide with the desire of the hon. member for Stanstead that the fire test of oil should be placed at a point which would prevent the calamities which have taken place for years past, so as to avoid a repetition of such accidents in the future. One can scarcely pick up a newspaper without finding in it a report of some shocking accident by an explosion of coal oil. Even to-day, I took up a paper and found an account of a disastrous fire which was caused by an explosion of coal oil. It is as follows:—

"A coal oil lamp exploded in the residence of Mrs. Cole, school-teacher, Weedon, P.Q., setting fire to her three children and burning them frightfully. Mrs. Cole was also badly burned in trying to extinguish the flames."

And again, last month, we read of a distressing accident which was published in all the papers:

"Kleinsburg, Ont.—About 8 o'clock last night, as Mrs. Archy McTaggert was returning from putting her children to bed, the lamp which she was carrying exploded, and the burning oil flowing over her clothes set fire to them, burning her in a frightful manner. She lingered in agony until this morning when she died."

Such a state of things should not exist in this country; and when I hear an hon. member ask the House to reduce the fire test on oil, I tremble for the consequences. With reference to the explosive character of the two oils, it is well known that, in regard to Canadian oil, there is much less chance of its exploding at the same fire test than of American oil. My hon. friend has quoted from many American journals, with reference to the fire test used in the respective states. Take, for instance, the States of Michigan and Ohio. There they ought to know much better than we do what the proper test should be, for the simple reason that they have much more experience in regard to it than we have. I find the fire test of these states, and also a number of others to be considerably more than that of Canada on Canadian oil. The Inspector of Petroleum, at Cleveland, Ohio, which is the great oil market of the United States, in his report for the year 1878, says:

"The standard test for all illuminating oils in Ohio is 120° Fahrenheit's thermometer, and all illuminating oils that will not bear a flash test of 120° cannot be legally sold in this state for illuminating purposes."

Now, Sir, with regard to the statement of my hon. friend, when he says that there should be no difference between the flash test of Canadian and American oil, I will read what Professor Keadzie and other members of the Michigan State Board of Health say on the subject. This body gave the subject of petroleum the most minute investigation, and I avail myself of their experience in reference to the difference between high and low test oils, as to the cause and the results of accidents, as contained in the report of the Secretary of the State Board, which says:

"Under all such circumstances, when, by the breaking of a lamp, or otherwise, a quantity of illuminating oil is exposed to a flame, the chances of possible control are very much in proportion, inversely, to the volatility of the oil; for when oil that is volatile at a low temperature is so exposed, the entire surrounding atmosphere becomes almost instantly impregnated with its vapour, which, as soon as a flame comes in contact with any part of it, becomes a continuous sheet of flame, completely enveloping persons or surrounding objects, and, therefore, entirely beyond any control which can immediately be brought to bear upon it. Under such circumstances, loss of life and property is imminent. With less volatile oil, under an equal accession of heat, there is less pressure of vapour, and if the mass of oil is exposed by the breaking of a lamp, or otherwise, a longer time elapses before the oil is converted into vapour. Under such circumstances, the element of time makes all the difference between certain death and destruction of property, and possible escape with life and property."

Now we claim that Canadian oil is less volatile than American oil, and consequently not so dangerous. American oil has 20 per cent. of gasolene, benzine, benzole, and naptha in its component parts, while Canadian oil has only 5 per cent. of benzine in the crude oil, just as it comes from the ground, and no gasolene or other explosive substances in it whatsoever. Gasoline is more volatile than benzine, and, therefore, American oil is more volatile than Canadian oil, and will explode with more violence at the same temperature than Canadian oil, and consequently do more damage. The higher the temperature of the oil is, the more violent the explosion. American oil being more volatile than Canadian oil will throw off a greater body of vapour at the same temperature than