

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—It is my opinion that this measure has been hurried up too rapidly and that its provisions are very deficient. I think all oils intended to be used as burning fluids should be tested on importation, and if found unsafe, should be thrown overboard, at once, or taken from the Colony. But the Bill is so deficient that I cannot see that we can take hold of it in its present shape. If the operation of this law is confined to Charlottetown, other parts of the Island may be almost overflowed with inferior oils, and the people could not put a stop to their importation. It is my belief that no benefit can be derived from the present arrangement of the Bill; it must be patent to every thinking mind that people in the country have as much right to the protection of a law of this nature as the people of Charlottetown, and that the lives of the former are as dear to them as the lives of the latter are to them. I should heartily give my support to a Bill which will give us proper protection from dangerous oils; but I consider the present Bill as worse than useless.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—If the hon. member would try to amend the Bill he would do some good service, but his remarks have not had the least tendency towards that end. If he wishes to show up its defects, I can refer him to the Bill which he presented the other day, and which was very defective. If we had followed his representations we should have been entirely led astray; but he got his eyes opened on the matter and great alterations were made in the Bill. I always give a man credit for doing what he thinks is best in any matter, and I only hope he will do as much for this Bill as I did for the one introduced by himself. I am no chemist; still I can try to remedy a defect in our laws relating to such subjects as the one before us; but if he wishes to remedy the defects of this Bill there is plenty of chance for him. I wish to offer an amendment to this clause that it may better suit our position as a Colony. In the city of Boston, the other day, they sent around to assay all the different kinds of burning fluids, and out of some twenty-five samples, very few would stand the test. If our merchants wish to purchase Kerosene Oil in Canada, New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, they have to purchase it from a bonded warehouse some distance from a city, for there it is not allowed to be stored up within city limits. By altering the clause before us to suit our circumstances, the whole can be included in a few words.

Mr. REILLY.—I think it is high time such a Bill as this was passed, because the shops in which the largest quantity of these oils are kept, and which are liable to be blown up at any moment, are in the most densely populated parts of Charlottetown. A store took fire some time ago through this oil, and if the building had not happened to be a brick one, the whole of that part of the town might have been consumed. I am of the opinion that the Bill before us will exclude the bad article from our markets, and this is all we require. I believe the good article proves

cheaper, because it burns longer than the inferior oil.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD.—I stated that I should be happy to support the Bill if it contained the necessary provisions for the exclusion of bad oil from our market; but I am still of the opinion that it applies very poorly to the wants of this Colony. If it is altered to suit our circumstances, it must be entirely changed from its present form. As to the remarks made on the Bill relating to weights and measures, I consider they are entirely uncalled for. After hon. members had tested the weights of the different articles, they found I was nearer to the truth than they were.

Hon. G. SINCLAIR.—I would like to see some proof that the danger really exists, before any strict law is enacted. It appears there are strict provisions in those parts where this oil is made, to the effect that no person is allowed to manufacture or sell bad and dangerous oil; I cannot, therefore, see how it gets here. We have no manufactories where this oil is made; and if there are such strict provisions in the Provinces and the United States, I cannot see where our dangerous oil comes from.

Hon. Mr. HOWLAN.—I have in my hands a document from a gentleman who tested all the kerosene oil in this City; and he found that nearly every sample he procured would explode at seventy degrees, Fahrenheit, which is only about half the standard allowed in the United States and neighboring Provinces. In Boston, they keep the manufactories and warehouses where there are large quantities of this oil, at a safe distance from the City. Our merchants purchase their cheap oils and bring them here where there is no law to prevent their sale; and if it is a fact that nearly all the oil in this town will explode at seventy degrees, the sooner the matter is remedied the better. What oils I purchase, I test, knowing that if they explode upon my premises, I lose my insurance. I believe this debate will have an important effect upon the country; for many of our people are not aware of the danger of using these bad oils. As an individual, this matter is of little importance to me; but as a member of this house, I thought it my duty to attend to it, and to bring in a measure for the purpose of protecting the people from danger; and if this matter is not immediately attended to, the country will dearly pay for the consequences.

Hon. Mr. DAVIES.—The objection I made to the Bill, was that it allows the dangerous oil to be brought ashore from the vessel in which it is brought here. If the oils can be landed, the danger will be as great as ever; the provisions of the Bill are therefore not stringent enough. It provides that if a man sells bad oils he can be fined. Now, this is altogether too slack, for if the dangerous oils are once landed, a way will be found to get rid of them, and the law will be evaded. The bad oils should be destroyed altogether or sent away from the Colony. No man can be legally punish-