

Atlantic. After much argument and much writing to prove that they could, the first Oil steamer was placed on the Mediterranean in 1885, and now forty-five are being built or are running between America or Batoum and Europe—a marvellous revolution to accomplish in so short a time with a little ink.

In another branch, the success of my Petroleum policy has been even more gratifying, because precious lives, not hard cash, are concerned in the matter. Two years ago, I declared I would no longer tolerate the manufacture of dangerous lamps. "The Moloch of Paraffin" ushered in the agitation against them, and the correctness of my views in regard to what lamps were safe and what were dangerous was confirmed by the independent tribunal appointed by the Russian Government last year. Not a single lamp denounced in "The Moloch of Paraffin" received any medal, while the only lamp that I had found to be absolutely safe was the only lamp in Europe that received a medal for safety. The two aims of this agitation, conducted persistently week after week, and month after month—the improvement of lamps in the direction of safety, and the appointment of a Government Commission to investigate the question—have both been realised. Thanks to the feeling aroused by the Press, scores of new safety appliances have come into existence, and there is every reason to hope that the appointment of Sir Frederick Abel and Mr. Boverton Redwood as Commissioners to report on the various lamps in use, will be followed by the passing of a law to put down the dangerous types, in accordance with the policy advocated in "The Moloch of Paraffin."

In recommending the opening up of the Burmese and Canadian Oil fields, I do not clash so violently with vested interests as when I urged that tank steamers should replace barrel-carrying ships, and that the Birmingham and German lamp manufacturers should be prevented from roasting alive 200 or 300 people with shoddy lamps in the United Kingdom every year. All the same, I would rather be abused, and well abused, than that my recommendations should fall disregarded, for to see one's policy carried into effect is, after all, the best of all salves for the wounds caused by harsh and hostile criticism, in most cases proceeding from simple ignorance.

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