

tion standard; when that is done sell by auction, when the Department may dispose of the proceeds in suchway as it is considered advisable.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) Z. WILSON, *Collector.*

CUSTOM HOUSE, OTTAWA, 12th December, 1879.

Z. WILSON, Esq.,

Collector of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,— In reply to Mr. Parsons' demand for the release of 10 barrels of American coal oil, seized by me on the 11th ult., I beg to submit the following for your consideration.

In the first place, there is no mark on the barrels to show that the oil had been inspected by an officer of the Customs, or that the duty had been paid. There is a mark printed on the end of each barrel (132° fire test,) but, upon testing the oil at this Port, found it to stand only 120° fire test. This brand or mark must have been printed as described to mislead.

A great many seizures of coal oil have been made at this port under the late Act, but were released upon the importers bringing the oil up to the required fire-test, yet explosions were frequent and the laws set at defiance. Under the present Act, however, the oil has to be exported out of the country or destroyed within forty-eight hours after the seizure is made.

Section No. 9 provides that any oil imported into Canada without having been inspected shall be subject to seizure, and be dealt with as the Governor in Council may direct.

I hope, therefore, you will urge upon the Departments the necessity of making an example of this case for the benefit of honest importers, and that, if necessary, an Order in Council may be passed to confiscate the oil under seizure, besides inflicting a fine of five dollars per barrel, as provided for in the Act.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) ALEXANDER HENEY.

OTTAWA, 24th December, 1879.

To the Minister of Customs.

With reference to the oil under seizure, the case is very peculiar. Parsons & Co. profess to have purchased it from the London Oil Refining Company, and they allege that they imported it in bulk, when it was inspected and found to stand the fire test of 130°; that it was then put in barrels, and ten barrels sent to Parsons & Co. Ottawa.

On arriving in Ottawa, the barrels were found without inspection marks, and on being inspected, the oil was found to explode at 120°.

Now, the inference is that the oil is not that which was imported by the London Oil Refining Company, and if not, the further inference is that it has been smuggled, and may be dealt with under the Customs Act. Hence the recommendation of Mr. Collector Wilson is quite regular, but the undersigned thinks it would be desirable to endeavor to dispose of it to some party holding license to import and keep explosive oils, and if not so disposed of, to allow it to be mixed with heavy oil, so as to bring it within fire-test, and then sold as a seizure.

Humbly submitted

(Signed)

J. JOHNSON.