

11½c. to 12c. a gallon. There has doubtless been a strong prejudice raised against Canadian oil. People have been led to believe that there was a difficulty in preparing Canadian oil for the market and making it equal to Pennsylvania oil. We have reason to know that Canadian oil can be rendered entirely free from odour, perfectly colourless, quite inexplosive and still retain a higher and richer illuminating power than its Pennsylvania rival. I believe my hon. friend from Stanstead has candidly acknowledged that it is much richer in illuminating power than that of Pennsylvania. If that is the case, it is desirable that Canadian oil should find its way into full favour in the Canadian market. There is a well-known process by which the volatile and dangerous properties are expelled at a small expense. It adds but a trifle, as I have stated, to the expense to raise the fire test, and at the standard proposed there can be no possibility of impairing the illuminating power. I think the hon. member for Stanstead was a little mistaken when he said that it would add nine or ten cents a gallon to the American oil to have it just where it is. I think we should be cautious before we proceed in the direction which is likely to cause such serious disaster to our country as the sort of legislation which the hon. member for Stanstead has invoked. I much doubt, if the proposed measure is adopted, that it will produce satisfactory results. I do not think there will be any harm in trying to do for the manufacturers and producers of coal oil in Ontario, what we have done for my hon. friend's (Mr. Longley) Province in placing a tax on American, for the benefit of Nova Scotia, coal which, so far as it may be a burden, falls most largely upon the people of Ontario. I think it would be simply a very small reciprocity. The tax on wheat and flour was claimed to be such a reciprocal concession, but it is urged by our hon. friends opposite that there can be no additional charge imposed upon the hon. gentleman's constituents, and the people of the Maritime Provinces, through the duty upon wheat and flour, and the farmers are assured that they cannot benefit by it to the extent of a penny, because the English market rules the price. The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) has dealt with the

subject in his accustomed manner. He has drawn a fearful picture of the dangers attendant upon the use of American oil, even at the high fire test of 180° required by the laws of some of the Western States. A frightful accident, occasioned by breaking a lamp, somewhere in Wisconsin was his theme, but it turns out that the accident did not occur in that State or any other having a high fire test, but in a New England State where the test is comparatively low. His excellent conclusions, therefore, fail for want of premises. I trust the proposition, which is suggested on behalf of the Canadian refiners, will meet with the consideration of this House, rather than that urged by my hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Colby). The Canadian oil at a fire test of 120°, I believe to be safer than the American oil at 130°. The Canadian oil is considered safe at 105°, the refiners are willing to raise that test, and I desire that the test shall be raised, because I wish to compel all the refiners to come up to the proposed standard, and produce an oil which will be acceptable to the public. We possess in the oil producing region of Enniskillen and Dawn, in Lambton County, a mine of riches of untold and practically inexhaustible value. It can be further developed by receiving proper care from the Government, without compelling the public to pay an additional price for its useful and almost indispensable product, which is one of the most important resources of the country. I think the proposition I have advocated will be acceptable to the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue, and will be in the right direction both for the producer and the consumer, whose interests seem to be identical. I beg to say again, Mr. Speaker, that I trust the House will not accept the proposition which has been made by my hon. friend from Stanstead, but will agree with me in thinking the matter should be left largely to the discretion of the Government who are fully acquainted with this subject, and upon whom the responsibility of dealing with a matter in which human life is at stake, and who have full opportunity and means of testing the question at issue, should be permitted to remain.

MR. MACDONALD (Kings, P. E. I.): So far as the Province from which I come is concerned, I may say that merchants