

OTTAWA, 18th July, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, Summerside, P.E.I.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, respecting inspection of petroleum, I beg leave to state that the testing for specific gravity is not of importance in imported oil; it is chiefly necessary for excise purposes. The testing for fire-test may be performed by any Customs officer competent to perform the work. I will endeavor to provide a few more pyrometers, but in the meantime any small importation at the outports can be tested by sample sent you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. JOHNSTON.

CUSTOM HOUSE, HALIFAX, July 8th, 1879.

The Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—Since the receipt of the new petroleum inspection Act, no American oil was imported; indeed, none can be imported (none being made) that will stand the Canadian fire-test of 130 degrees, this fire test has always been "the vapor or flash test" and is so still. This Act should be brought to the notice of the Honorable the Minister of Customs, as in its operation it means *prohibition*, as no American oil can now be imported. The loss to revenue will be about \$65,000 per annum. I enclose extracts from the English Act. This frequent legislation is creating much dissatisfaction in all parts of this Province. The Imperial Act requiring only 100 degrees is a strong contrast to one requiring 130 degrees. I notice a strong letter in to-day's *Chronicle* on the subject, which please read.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) W. ROSS, *Collector*.

Memorandum respecting petroleum from the English Act, 21st August, 1871, 34 and 35 Vic. Cap. 105, Section 3. "For the purpose of this Act the term 'petroleum' includes any rock oil, Rangoon oil, Burmah oil, oil made from petroleum, coal, schist, shale, peat, or other bituminous substance, and any products of petroleum, or any of the above mentioned oils, and the terms petroleum, to which this act applies," means such of the petroleum so defined as when tested in manner set forth in Schedule 1 to this Act, gives off an inflammable vapor at a temperature of less than one hundred degrees of Farenheit's thermometer.

CUSTOM HOUSE, QUEBEC, 10th July, 1879

The Commissioner of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—Mr. Peverley, a dealer in oil here, has imported five barrels of petroleum, and as he is desirous of obtaining immediate possession, and as no Inspector has yet been appointed under 42 Victoria Cap. 18, I have deputed, Bowden, one of the samplers and weighers, to perform the duty, until such time as an Inspector may be appointed under the 3rd Section of the Act, and I hope my action in the matter will meet with the approval of the Department.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) M. DUNSCOMB, *Collector*.

OTTAWA, July 19, 1879.

The Collector of Customs, Quebec.

SIR,—Adverting to your letter of the 11th instant, reporting action taken in reference to the inspection of petroleum, I beg leave to state that it is approved of, and you are authorized to employ any one or more of your officers to inspect petroleum whom you may judge to be competent for that duty.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. JOHNSON.