

"1. Companies having more than four thousand consumers shall procure such certificate once in each week; those having less than four and more than two thousand consumers, once in each month; those having less than two thousand and more than five hundred consumers, once in each interval of three months; and those having less than five hundred consumers, once in each interval of six months;

"2. Such certificates shall show the average result of the various tests taken by the Inspector under departmental regulations, during the period intervening between the date of any certificate and that of the preceding one, and shall remain so posted up until replaced by the next succeeding one as hereinbefore required;

"3. Every gas company in cities in which the requisite apparatus is furnished by the Department shall obtain during the first weeks of January, April, July and October in each year, a certificate indicating the average quantity of ammonia and sulphur, in other forms than sulphuretted hydrogen, ascertained by official analysis during the preceding three months to have been contained in the gas;

"4. Each certificate of tests shall be posted as above required within twenty-four hours of its delivery by the Inspector and shall remain so posted up until the issue of the next following certificate; and any company failing to comply with the foregoing requirements of this section shall, for each day during which such failure continues, incur a penalty of ten dollars;

"5. Every company shall pay to the Inspector, on the receipt of each such certificate, such fees as may be prescribed by Order in Council, and such fees shall be applied as prescribed by the 35th section of the Act first above cited."

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would like to ask the hon. Minister where he proposes the tests of the illuminating quality to be made—at the headquarters of the company, or at certain consumers' at different points throughout the city, or town, or village, as the case may be?

Mr. COSTIGAN. I suppose the test will be made at the headquarters. The check upon that is the inspection afterwards at different places.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Because practically an enormous quantity of the gas supplied is so diluted with air in many cases that the test made at the headquarters affords no criterion whatever of the illuminating quality. Persons residing at a distance from the central office know very well, as the hon. gentleman may find if he makes enquiry, that the gas supplied is very far indeed from possessing the illuminating quality which is required, and, if he could devise a means of checking that evil, he would confer an enormous benefit upon the public.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I think the average illuminating quality in the Dominion is above the requirements of this Act.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It may be at the headquarters, but not at a certain distance. Everybody who resides at a certain distance from the headquarters can corroborate my opinion, that at certain seasons of the year, and certain periods of the evening, the gas varies enormously in illuminating quality. Sometimes it is almost useless.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not see any practical difficulty in enlarging the Bill so as to authorize departmental regulations to be made under which the inspectors shall test not merely at the gasometer, but also at certain consumers, at certain distances, as departmental regulations might require. The hon. gentleman might provide that, and, if it was found that the difficulties were great, he need not enforce it. I do not say that the quality of the gas is different at the houses from what it is at the gasometer, because I do not know, but there can be no doubt that the quality of the gas varies very much at the houses from one day to another, and in many places from one period to another, as far as the supply goes, and if that is produced by the circumstances of distance to which my hon. friend has alluded, then the consumer's interest is to have tested not what the strength of the gas is at the gasometer, but what it is as it gets into his own house and is lighted.

Mr. COSTIGAN. If the hon. gentleman thinks the present Act does not cover that ground, it might be well to provide for it.

Mr. COSTIGAN.

Mr. BLAKE. But these tests are to be made under this Act.

Mr. STAIRS. I would ask the hon. member for South Huron whether he does not think the difficulties to which he alludes may not be entirely due to a deficiency in the pressure rather than to the quality of the gas. In Halifax, I have heard it stated that the quality of the gas is quite as good long distances from the works as it is near them.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That may be the cause. I do not know sufficiently well to speak of that, but I refer to what is an unfortunate fact within the knowledge of most hon. members. I have taken the trouble myself at times to test the consumption as registered by the meter, and to my surprise, the worse the light, the larger the quantity the meter marked.

Mr. BLAKE. Then, under the provisions of the clause as amended, I understand it is not intended that there shall be a departmental regulation to control the number of tests and the times at which tests shall be made by the inspectors. I do not think it would be very satisfactory if, in a large city, tests are made very frequently in the week at prescribed or specified times. If they are not made daily, for the purpose of obtaining a weekly average, the fewer tests ought to be distributed over the week, or we will have the experience which everyone knows to exist in regard to public institutions, that arrangements will be made to have it different when the public officer comes round from what it is on an ordinary day.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 10,

Mr. COSTIGAN moved that it be struck out.

Mr. BLAKE. Why?

Mr. COSTIGAN. For the reasons I already stated.

Mr. BLAKE. I thought they applied to section 11?

Mr. COSTIGAN. No, to section 10.

Mr. BLAKE. Is it because the gas companies have not expressed their views on it?

Mr. COSTIGAN. No; the subject was discussed with the officers of our Department, and it was found that there is great difficulty in fixing the amount of pressure. It has not been done heretofore, and it was thought wise not to take that subject up this Session, or until we got more information from our own officers throughout the country. Information was received from one of the large cities in a manner which seemed to indicate that the subject was thoroughly understood, but that was after we had agreed to make certain modifications in the whole Bill. I thought it would not be fair to make a radical change in it in the absence of those who had come so far to discuss the matter. I do not abandon it, but I do not propose it now because I think it is too late in the Session to deal with it satisfactorily.

Mr. BLAKE. I think the hon. gentleman's explanation is very reasonable, and it confirms the view I stated awhile ago with reference to this character of legislation. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether any attempt has been made by legislation in other countries to deal with this question of pressure, or whether this is the first attempt; and if it is dealt with in other countries, is this proposal, which is now to be struck out—by unanimous consent, I presume—based upon the experience of other countries, or is it a proposal brought forward by the scientific men in his own Department?

Mr. COSTIGAN. This question has been dealt with in England, where there is a law providing for a certain amount of pressure.

Amendment agreed to.