

phosphorus for the manufacture of matches in America, believing this article to be a remedy for the prevailing trouble in manufacturing matches, namely, phosphorus necrosis, is willing to permit the use of sesquisulphide in the manufacture of matches in America if the government provided for the prohibition of the use of white phosphorus by other manufacturers of matches not owning an interest in the patent, they all to be put on equal terms with the Diamond Match Company as to the use of the patents. The government of England has this last winter passed a Bill prohibiting the use of white phosphorus and providing for the use of sesquisulphide on equal terms, as per copy of Bill inclosed.

O. C. BARBER.

On seeing this communication in the report it occurred to me that it might be well to communicate with the Diamond Match Company in the United States and find out whether this company would be willing to grant the use of the patented substance to manufacturing firms in Canada on as liberal terms as they propose to offer in the United States. I may say that this patent in Canada is at present owned by the same company, the Diamond Match Company, they having obtained possession of the patent last year. It was patented in Canada some years ago by two Frenchmen. I sent the following communication to the president of the Diamond Match Company on the last day of the old year.

Ottawa, Ont., December 31, 1910.

Sirs,—In a report of the hearings before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives on Bills relating to Health Activities of the general government, part VII, printed at Washington this year, I find quoted at page 390 the following communication:—

Here is set out the letter I have first read.

I understand from inquiry at the Patent Office of the Dominion that a patent for the use of sesquisulphide for the manufacture of matches in Canada was taken out in 1899 by Henri Sevens and E. D. Cahen, of Paris, France, and in 1910 assigned to the Diamond Match Company. I inclose for your information copy of a Bill which I have introduced in the House of Commons of Canada, and I am writing to ask if, in the event of this Bill becoming law, the Diamond Match Company is prepared to permit the use of sesquisulphide in the manufacture of matches in Canada on the same terms on which, according to the above quoted communication, it is prepared to allow its use under like circumstances in the United States, i.e., all manufacturers to be put on equal terms with the Diamond Match Company as to the use of the patents.

As this question is likely to be raised in the course of the debate on the second reading of the Bill which may take place very shortly after the reassembling of parliament on the 11th proximo, I would be obliged if your company would give me a statement

Mr. KING.

which I might make public in this connection.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) W. L. MACKENZIE KING,
Minister of Labour.

The Diamond Match Company,
Akron, Ohio.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Has the Diamond Match Company manufactured in Canada under its patent?

Mr. KING. I am not aware that they have manufactured in Canada.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Then their patent is worthless.

Mr. KING. That would be all the better for the manufacturers in this country.

Mr. WRIGHT. What are these particular terms?

Mr. KING. The correspondence which I am about to read will probably answer that question.

January 11, 1911.

The Diamond Match Company,
111 Broadway, New York.

Sir,—We are in receipt of your letter of December 31, 1910.

In reply we beg to advise you that in the event of the passage of your Bill No. 10, entitled 'An Act to prohibit the Manufacture and Importation of Matches made with White Phosphorus,' we would be quite willing to permit the use of sesquisulphide of phosphorus in Canada on equitable terms.

The use of sesquisulphide of phosphorus as an ingredient in the composition of a match head as covered by letters patent of the Dominion of Canada granted December 5, 1899, to Henri Sevens and E. D. Cahen, of Paris, France, and assigned to this company.

The 4th section of the English White Phosphorus Act provides that any person who is manufacturing or proposing to manufacture matches may present a petition to the board of trade praying for the grant of a compulsory license, &c. So far as we, as owners of the Canadian patent are concerned, we would be quite satisfied with a similar provision in the Canadian law.

Yours truly,
The Diamond Match Co.,
EDW. R. STETTINIUS,
President.

W. L. Mackenzie King, Esq.,
Minister of Labour,
Ottawa, Canada.

Since the receipt of that letter, a letter has reached me from Mr. Andrews, the secretary of the American Association for Labour Legislation which shows that the Diamond Match Company has gone a step further. As I have pointed out, the agitation in the United States, as in the manner attempted here, has been directed to make it appear that the match trust is really seeking to promote legislation of this kind and to use these patents to embarrass other concerns. This letter speaks for itself: