

American oil, based on considerations of safety, is to my mind entirely without foundation in science or good sense. Whatever the test may be, it should be uniform.

MR. MACKENZIE: I think the hon. gentleman is mistaken in thinking there is naphtha in the Canadian oil.

MR. COLBY: There is naphtha. I have it on high authority.

MR. MACKENZIE: No.

MR. COLBY: Yes, and benzine; but there is little or no gasoline. Those elements are all inflammable and give out an explosive gas. The question of safety is not the only—although it is the most important—consideration in determining the test of an oil. It is an established fact that, after you pass a certain degree or test, you impair the illuminating qualities of the oil. After you have removed the lighter constituents of the oil, so as to bring it above 115° or 120° you reduce the illuminating power, leaving a larger proportion of paraffine. So the effect of having a test higher than is necessary for safety, is to give an inferior illuminating oil. Dr. Baker Edwards, than whom there is no higher authority on this subject, says: "I consider 120° too high a standard to ensure an equably burning oil, especially in the winter season." He fully approves of the 115° test, and gives the weight of his authority to my proposal, saying if you go above 115° you impair, in a corresponding degree, the illuminating qualities of the oil. It then becomes a heavier oil; it follows up the wick less readily; it chars the wick, heats the burner and smokes the chimney. I called on Mr. Shaw, a large dealer in Canadian and American oils in Sparks street, and he assured me that the present test prevents him from obtaining the ordinary astral oil, of 150° burning test, which is one of the best grades in the market, and compels him to pay 3c. a gallon more for oil that would stand 175° burning test. He also says that this higher priced oil, is inferior to the other as an illuminating oil, and so does Pratt the producer; and yet he is compelled to pay that much more for it by the very remarkable legislation of last year. I have also the opinion of an experienced oil dealer in Montreal, a

MR. COLBY.

man entirely disinterested, who writes me as follows:—

"The proper fixed point should be 115° flash test. This would ensure perfect safety and a good illuminating power. After it passes that point its illuminating power becomes affected in ordinary lamps, and when it reaches and passes 120° its power is decidedly impaired. For imported oils, I can see no reason whatever for placing the fire test one degree higher than the test for Canadian oil. Dangerous oil will be effectually barred out at 115° degrees Canadian flash test.

"I have had oils brought from many different refineries in both Canada and the United States, and have always critically watched my oils, testing and examining them personally, and in a free and open market I would prefer an oil at 115°, and would consider doubtfully an oil at 120°, and decidedly object to an oil at 125°, and very much dislike some of the oils imported now at 130° for ordinary lamps. Another point to consider is the fact that the high test oils are costing, to-day, in the United States, three to five cents per wine gallon more than a really safe and good oil, and have done so for years past. This would be an increased tax upon the consumer without any benefit to the revenue of our own country, and with a loss instead of gain in the quality of the oil to the consumer. I consider oils safe enough at 110°, but 115° would place them beyond the effects of any carelessness or differences in testing; and considering the question from all the points I am acquainted with, 115° flash test would hit the happy mean."

This is the uniform testimony of all whom I have consulted on this subject. It is very certain that we are obliged to pay very much more for the high test oil—from 6c. to 10c. a gallon more—than for ordinary standard oils used under tests adopted in the New England States and New York. I received only last evening, from one of the largest dealers in oil in my county, the information that the operation of this act had obliged them to pay fully 9c. a gallon more for oil not worth one cent more than the old oil—he might have said not worth as much. I will give the prices to the House of the different kinds of oils in New York on the 13th April, 1880:

"Oil, for shipment, about 108° test, barrels included, in lots of 5,000 to 10,000 barrels, 7½c. to 7¾c. per wine gallon. Forty-five gravity oil, 135° to 140°, 14¾c. per wine gallon. One hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty degrees, say Pratt's or Devae's, 16c. to 17c., barrels included."

The standard oils are manufactured in large quantities under most favorable conditions; and are brought, by competition, to the lowest remunerative price; but special oils, manufactured to supply a