

the object of attack not only by several Canadian manufacturers of matches, but also by work people who will lose their occupations if the Bill becomes law and thus shuts down a number of factories.

And so on—

That is a somewhat serious indictment to be brought against any one person let alone against a government as a whole, and that report has been sent out from end to end of the Dominion as being the explanation of the Bill I have introduced. It is only fair to point out that the paper which published this article in the first instance, on the following day, in its editorial columns, published a complete repudiation of the article. The editorial was headed: 'Poisoned victims,' and it goes on to show that the paper which published the article does not share this view. Giving the name of the paper, it says:

This paper prefers to be on the side of the legislation suggested against a manufacturing curse which undoubtedly was at no recent date rife throughout civilization.

We beg, therefore, to repudiate sympathy with the opinions which appeared in this paper yesterday, and on the contrary to range ourselves among the supporters of the government Bill until good reasons are proved against it.

Mr. OWEN. Is any white phosphorus used in the manufacture of matches in Canada and if so where?

Mr. KING. White phosphorus is used in all the factories. The largest is the E. B. Eddy Company at Hull, there are also the J. and G. Flewelling at Hampton, New Brunswick, the Eureka Match Factory at Halifax, Nova Scotia, there is also one in the province of Quebec, and I think there is a factory beginning business in Deseronto, Ontario. In all these factories I understand white phosphorous is used in the manufacture of matches.

I may say that simultaneously with the introduction of this Bill in this House or a little before a Bill was introduced in the United States House of Representatives which is now before that body. I have copies of the different Bills which have been introduced, one on June 3, 1910, a Bill to provide for a tax upon white phosphorus matches and for other purposes; another on December 15, of the same name and one on December 19, 1910. All of these Bills have been introduced with a view to having the United States also become a party to the convention to which these other countries have become parties, and if that legislation passes, and this legislation passes in this House, and there is reason to believe that in each case it will pass, then the countries on this continent and the leading countries in Europe will have united together to absolutely put down the possibility of the spread of this disease in

connection with the match making industry.

On December 6, 1910, Mr. Taft, President of the United States, sent the following message to Congress:

I invite attention to the very serious injury caused to all those who are engaged in the manufacture of phosphorus matches. The disease incident to this is frightful, and as matches can be made from other materials entirely innocuous, I believe that the injurious manufacture could be discouraged and ought to be discouraged by the imposition of a heavy federal tax. I recommend the adoption of this method of stamping out a very serious abuse.

The president's message, I should say, was not sent until after the whole matter had been very carefully investigated by officers of the Department of Labour and Commerce in the United States. I have here a copy of hearings before the committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives on Bills relating to the health and activity of the general public, a report which deals with this one question alone, printed during the latter part of last year. It contains a complete account of the match making industry in the United States and cites cases of phosphorus necrosis which are known to be existent in the factories there. On the first page is a letter from the Secretary of Commerce and Labour. Hon. Charles Nagel, stating different reasons why an Act of this kind should be passed in the United States. It contains, on page 390, a letter which was given by the then president of the Diamond Match Company, the concern which owns the patent of the substance to which I have referred—sesquisulphide—in which the president of that company states that in the event of an Act of this kind being passed in the United States his firm will be agreeable to allow all manufacturing concerns to have the use of its patented substance on equal terms with itself. The same kind of a charge that has been made here in Canada in the article to which I have referred has been made also in the United States namely that this legislation is being promoted by the Match Trust and the reason that is put forward is that the Match Trust, the Diamond Match Company in the United States happens to own the patent for this substance, sesquisulphide, and will not allow other concerns to use it so that its competitors will be at a disadvantage if legislation of this kind should be enacted. That makes this letter of considerable interest. It reads:

Akron, Ohio, March 15, 1909.

Charles E. McKenna,
Special Agent, Bureau of Labour.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,—The Diamond Match Company, owners of patents for the use of sesquisulphide