

Mr. MACKENZIE: Well, there was a little discussion on it, but not very much.

Mr. CASEY: I think the hon. Minister should have seen that there was just ground for this discrimination before introducing it. In reference to the test, the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Macmillan) has tried to show that American oil is much more explosive than Canadian. I think it is likely that a sample of American oil, taken at random, will explode at a lower temperature than average Canadian oil. It is, however, absurd to say that of two samples which stand the same flash test, one will explode at one point and the other at another, as that test shows the temperature at which explosion takes place. A gentleman who has been for some time in the city, as the representative of the oil producer, has given me a memorandum on the subject for use in this discussion, the pertinent part of which I will lay before the House. He says:

"Mr. Colby says that there should be a uniform fire-test on both Canadian and American oils. This is unjust to the Canadian manufacturers. Canadian oil is a less volatile oil than American oil, and has no gasolene in it, and only a small proportion of benzine, which is not so volatile or explosive as gasolene. American crude oil contains 20 per cent. of gasolene. If you take an American oil and Canadian oil, which will both burn upon the application of flame, at a given temperature of say 130° Fahrenheit, the American oil will throw off a vapour which will explode at 10° lower temperature than the Canadian oil. The vapour from oil explodes before the oil will burn; therefore, there should be 10° difference in the flash-test to put both oils on an equal footing."

The hon. gentleman to whom I have referred argues that a uniform test on both kinds of oil is unjust, because the American oil, even if no more explosive than Canadian, is more liable to burn, and so set fire to the house after it has exploded. I argued with him that those figures upset his case, and I think so still. They show that, of two specimens of oil, American and Canadian, that will both burn at the same temperature, the American will flash at 10° lower than the other, there is then 10° greater difference between the exploding and burning points of American oil than between the exploding and burning points of Canadian oil. Therefore, we can only conclude the lighter—or American—oil will not burn at quite so low a temperature as the

heavier, if they both explode at the same point. I am informed that a series of experiments have been made in this city by a Government officer, which establishes the same thing. I think, then, we may conclude that, if we ascertain positively that the American oil, which we allow to be imported, will not explode at any lower point than the Canadian, there is no danger of its taking fire at any lower point. The explosion of a lamp which scatters the oil into fine fragments, may cause it to burn at a lower figure than if the flame were applied to it in an open saucer; and the same results might not flow from explosions as tests made in the usual way, but the relations of the two oils would remain the same, although the figures at which explosions took place might be different. The hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Macmillan) has referred to several accidents which had occurred with American oil under a burning test of 115°, to show that American oil generally was unsafe. Now, it would be a very low grade of oil that would burn at 115°—not such as would be admitted by the Bill of the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Colby), which required a flash test of 115° since there were 20° or 40° between the flashing and burning points. We know that oil that will explode at 105° is reasonably safe; it is not an oil that frequently explodes. We know also that in Canada—though no oil is supposed to go out under that figure—oil frequently explodes. It follows, therefore, that the explosions in Maine, even if their law required a flash test of 115°, may have been due to some such error in testing, or to carelessness on the part of officers or dealers as has occurred in connection with explosions in Canada. As to the matter of trouble and expense, as I am informed, the fire test is raised by blowing air through the oil, which carries away the volatile elements. There is some expense in the process, and loss from the removal or dispersion of those particles to raise the oil to a higher test. There is a difference of 8½c. between the lowest and highest of these oils, whose prices were quoted by the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Macmillan), consequently the higher test involves the production of a more costly oil. I think that an oil bearing a burning test of 130° or 150°, or some-