

5. The floors shall be tongued and grooved and close-jointed, and each part thereof on which any person might walk or place his foot shall be covered with leather.

6. It shall be provided with two lightning rods, to be approved of by the Collector of Provincial Revenue.

Any powder magazine may, with the consent of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, be constructed in a different manner.—41 V., c. 3, s. 61; 46 V., c. 6, s. 1.

THE CHAIRMAN said: We all know the importance of taking such precautions as will render the powder magazines, which are an essential part in all mining operations, safe for the public and for the people who use them. We have on this subject a law which is apparently a good one. We have in Articles 875 and 876 of the Statutes a provision which lays down, so far as regards the Cities of Quebec and Montreal and their immediate neighborhoods, a rule for a special magazine constructed in a particular way—special directions as to the kind of magazine that is required. It also requires that every one in other parts of the Province who have magazines, whether such are required either for the use of the person to whom they belong, or for storage purposes, that a license should be obtained from the Provincial Government, and a plan or specification of the magazines proposed to be built furnished to the Provincial Secretary. If the magazines are approved, the Government issues a license, the tax being \$150. These are the existing regulations on the subject. I cannot say that it is desirable in the interests of mining companies, or the persons owning the magazines, that this law should be strictly complied with. It does not at all follow in the event of its not being complied with, that because an accident occurs, the owner of the magazine is liable for such accident unless it can be shown that the accident occurred through some neglect of the owner of the magazine. Besides that, if a license has not been applied for, and a magazine is kept without such license, the owner is liable to a penalty provided for in the Act. I am of the impression that this law is not being complied with at all; it may be in some places, but I am quite sure that there are a very large number of cases where this law has been disregarded. I had myself a plan of a magazine recently prepared, which I have sent in to the Government, and have reason to believe they will adopt it. It is stated