

3. That to ensure correctness in weighing, the Beam Scale should be used instead of the Platform Scale, as at present.

4. That the Inspectors have not lately publicly disposed of the scrapings and crustings, for the benefit of the owners thereof.

The Committee submitted with their Report a Draft of a Bill which they believed would meet most if not all of the objections to the present system.

The Bill referred to was submitted by the Council to the Inspectors, who had expressed a willingness to co-operate, for the purpose of receiving from them such suggestions as in their opinion would tend to make the proposed measure more complete and effective.

The Council think it right to remark that the proposed Bill contained some important alterations in the law, especially in providing for the appointment of several Inspectors, which appeared to the Council liable to grave objections. Further, the Council found cause to fear that the introduction into Parliament of this Bill would lead to the proposal and probable carrying into effect of other changes in the system of Inspection, especially in the reduction of the standards of strength of Ashes, which might seriously injure the trade.

Consequently the Council adopted the following resolution :—

*Resolved*,—“That, with reference to the report of the Committee now submitted, and also to the report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade, in July last, and the draft of Bill proposed by the latter,—the Council are of opinion that, before applying for new legislation, which may result in causing more evils than it cures—it is desirable to endeavor to rectify the evils complained of, by enforcing the existing law—and to this end appointing a Board of Examiners, and, if necessary, calling on the Inspectors to appoint one or more assistants who shall be approved by the Examiners as the law requires.”

At the request of members of the Board, a special meeting was called for the discussion of the subject, and at this meeting, one of the Ashes Inspection Committee distributed a printed document showing in parallel columns, certain provisions of the existing Act and the amendments proposed thereto.

The following were, according to this statement, the chief amendments proposed, viz :—

1. Instead of having the option of turning out the barrels or opening both ends the Inspector hereafter to be required to turn out the total contents, either separating different qualities, if such were found, or branding the barrel the average quality of its contents.

2. The empty barrel to be weighed and the actual tare deducted from the gross weight.

3. The scrapings to be publicly sold once a year, and the owners credited with the amount belonging to them.

4. The policy of Insurance to be made out in the name of the President of the Board of Trade, in trust for the owners of the Ashes, instead of in the name of the Inspectors, as at present.

5. The Inspectors to deliver any number of barrels out of a Bill when called upon to do so.

6. Examination of complaints against the Inspectors to be vested in the Council of the Board of Trade.

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