

THE DOUGHTON OIL BILL
C. W. HUNT "SMELLS A MOUSE"

Representative Sees Two Dangerous Features in Bill Introduced by Senator Doughton For Inspection of Illuminating Oils—Is Designed to Work Mischief to Several Persons, Says Mr. C. W. Hunt—Bill Provides That Persons Violating of Oil Sold in Violation of This Law Can Recover Damages From Parties Who Sold the Oil—Gives Governor Kitchin Too Many Appointments of Inspectors.

I am about to ask you to print the attached bill which has been introduced in the Senate branch of the Legislature by so good a man as Senator R. L. Doughton, but I am sure that there is something else or some one else behind the measure, for it is sweeping and appears to be designed to work mischief to several people, first, by annoyance, and second, in that Section 22 of the bill provides that people burned by the explosion of oil, sold in violation of this law, can recover damages from the parties who sold the oil.

I say these are two dangerous features, such as they are, but I am sure that there is another feature that is still more objectionable from an economical standpoint, and that is to allow the appointment of all these inspectors by the Governor, and while the bill provides for the appointment of a pull that the State should not, and does not need to stand sponsor for.

The present Governor went into office on the back of corporations, and it seems that the cry now is to give him a chance to get even in some way, if not by one, then by another. Did anybody guess that Standard Oil was aimed at in this?

The bill follows:
Section 1. That all kerosene or other illuminating oils put up in barrels or packages shall be tested and the quality determined by some inspector duly appointed for that purpose, and said barrels or packages shall have upon them the official stamp or brand of such inspector in letters and figures not less than two inches in length.

be fined in any sum not exceeding three hundred dollars, and the contents of such barrels or packages shall be forfeited and sold and the proceeds go to the common school fund of the State. If any manufacturer or dealer of said illuminating oils or fluids shall, with intent to deceive or defraud, alter or erase the inspector's brand to indicate a different flash test, gravity or quantity than is found by the inspector, or shall use with such intent packages having any inspector's brand thereon without having the contents actually inspected, he shall, on conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every offense.

Sec. 2. That all prosecutions for the violation of this act shall be instituted and prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction, and when collected shall be paid into the treasury of the county where the offense is committed, one-fourth of which shall be paid to the informer and three-fourths to the common school fund.

Sec. 3. That the inspectors are hereby empowered, if necessary to the convenient discharge of their respective duties, to appoint competent deputies, for whom they shall be and are hereby made respectively responsible and accountable, which deputies are hereby empowered to perform the duties of inspectors, and shall be liable and hereby made liable to the same penalties as the inspector.

Sec. 4. That no inspector or deputy inspector shall, while in office, be interested, directly or indirectly, in the manufacture or vending of any of the said illuminating oils or fluids to be inspected under this act; nor shall he, for the purpose of inspection, take any or appropriate any part of said illuminating oils or fluids for his own use or for the use of any other person under a penalty of five hundred dollars, to be recovered by indictment in the manner provided for in section 22 of this act.

Sec. 5. That the term of office for said inspectors shall be for two years, or until removed by the Governor, and each shall demand and receive from the owner of the illuminating oils or fluids inspected and marked and branded, as in this act provided, ten cents for each barrel and twenty cents for each smaller package. That all inspection fees accruing under this act shall be paid by the several inspectors into the office of the State Treasurer on the first Mondays of March, June, September and December of each year for the purpose of defraying the expenses connected with the inspections and gaugings herein provided for.

Sec. 6. That before entering upon the discharge of his duties each inspector aforesaid shall enter into bond, payable to the State of North Carolina, conditioned for the proper discharge of his duties, and for the faithful performance of his duties under this act, and to account for all moneys received and collected by him as such inspector, and for inspectors in counties of 40,000 population and under, according to the Federal census last preceding the making of the bond, the penalty of the same shall be \$2,000, and in counties of over 40,000 population, according to said census, the penalty of the same shall be \$5,000. The bond of each inspector in each county shall be approved by and filed with the county clerk of that county, and shall also provide, in case of suit thereon, for a reasonable attorney's fee for the State's Attorney.

Sec. 7. That on a failure of any inspector to turn over and account for the fees as herein directed within ten days after the time herein fixed, or for any other act or omission deemed sufficient by the Governor, he shall have the right to remove such inspector from office and appoint in his place another.

Sec. 8. That if any person sustain damage to his property or injury to his person by reason of a violation of any of the provisions of this act by another person, the person guilty of violation shall be liable to the person injured for all damages sustained thereby, and in case any person violating the provisions of this act shall be guilty of manslaughter, or the death of another, he shall be guilty of manslaughter, and on conviction thereof shall be punished according to the provisions of the section of the criminal statute relating to that crime.

Sec. 9. That hereafter each person, firm and corporation for whom coal oil, carbon oil, petroleum, kerosene oil, gasoline and other products of petroleum are inspected shall furnish to the Controller of the Treasury on the first Monday of March, June, September and December of each year, under oath, an itemized statement on each of said dates, showing all the fees accrued and paid by such person, firm or corporation during the quarter just passed, which statement shall show the number of vessels, barrels and smaller packages inspected and gauged for such person, firm or corporation, and when and where and names and residences of the inspectors making said inspections (and gaugings) and also the kind of material inspected or gauged.

Sec. 10. That for each of said reports the person, firm or corporation making same shall receive as compensation for making same ten (10) cents per hundred words. Provided, that four (4) figures shall be counted as one word wherever figures are used in said reports. No person shall receive for any one report less than one dollar (\$1), which compensation shall be paid by the State Treasurer out of the funds in his hands, if any there be, arising from the fees for making said inspections and gaugings as now provided for by law; and if there be no such funds in his hands, then the same shall be paid out of any other funds in his hands belonging to the State, and in either case to be paid by the State Treasurer upon the warrant of the Controller.

Sec. 11. That any person, firm or corporation refusing or failing to make the report herein provided for within ten days after the time herein fixed shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

Sec. 12. That all inspection fees accruing under this act are charged to the common school fund of the State.

Sec. 13. That if any person, manufacturer or dealer shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every offense.

Sec. 14. That if any person, manufacturer or dealer shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every offense.

Sec. 15. That if any person, manufacturer or dealer shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction, be fined in any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for every offense.

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Why Do Turks Assume Repellent Attitude Toward Mikado's People?
New York Sun:
The Constantinople correspondent of one of our contemporaries explains Turkey's repellent attitude toward Japan in the matter of diplomatic intercourse and exterritorial regime by ascribing to Abdul Hamid a degree of foresight and sagacity with which he is not always credited. He is said not to have shared the complacency with which his subjects beheld the humiliation of their old enemy Russia by the Japanese, and to have asserted that his own authority would be weakened by the new deal at the prestige of the only autocratic systems, except his own, surviving in Europe. The Ottoman sovereign is said to have predicted that one outcome of the Czar's disastrous expedition in Manchuria would be some compromise with the principle of representative institutions, and that such a precedent, following that established by Japan, would almost certainly provoke a demand from the

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