

Ind.---State inspector of mineral oil.

REPORT

OF THE

87777

COAL OIL INSPECTOR

FOR

1886.

TO THE GOVERNOR.

INDIANAPOLIS:

WM. B. BURFORD, CONTRACTOR FOR STATE PRINTING AND BINDING.

1887

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THE STATE OF INDIANA,
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, December 31, 1886. }

Received by the Governor.

FEBRUARY 4, 1887.

Examined by the Governor, and transmitted to the Secretary of State for publication upon the order of the Board of Commissioners of Public Printing and Binding.

PIERRE GRAY,
Private Secretary.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State, this 18th day of February, 1887.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN,
Secretary of State.

REPORT
OF
A. HAGEN,
INSPECTOR OF OILS FOR THE STATE OF INDIANA,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1886.

To His Excellency, ISAAC P. GRAY,
Governor of Indiana:

In accordance with section 5154 of the Revised Statutes of 1881, making it my duty to make a report of all illuminating oils inspected by myself and deputies, I hereby submit the same.

This report will show an increase over former years in the amount of oils inspected and approved, and a decrease from last year of amount of oils rejected. I have made it one of my duties to inquire into the causes of fires, and damages, claimed to have been occasioned by coal oil. By a careful investigation I invariably found a neglect in the proper care of handling the oil, or faulty lamps, burners or wicks, only in one case I found where the explosion was caused by the mixture of coal oil and benzine or gasoline. Most fires and damages caused by products of petroleum were caused by gasoline, and as the use of gasoline is taking greater proportions every year, accidents, damages, losses of life and property will increase with the consumption of the same. Therefore, it would be

desirable for the safety of the general public for the next General Assembly to pass such laws to protect the public from the sale and use of low grades of gasoline. Gasoline is very dangerous under all circumstances, and only the best grades should be allowed for sale for heating or illuminating purposes.

Rejected Oils.—Within this year there were rejected in this State 695 barrels of oil. Of all this rejected oil none was positively explosive or dangerous for illuminating purposes, but it would not pass the standard required by our State laws. The same oils would have passed the inspection of all other States where there is any legislation regulating the sale and use of petroleum oils, except Michigan; and such legislation exists in thirty States of the Union.

The best authorities on petroleum and its products, viz.: Prof. S. F. Peckham, Dr. C. F. Chandler, of N. Y., and others, agree that the highest flash test is not always the best and safest oil; but that an oil that flashes at a temperature equivalent to 100° to 110° Fahrenheit, in an open tester, is satisfactory to insure public safety. If our next Legislature could find time to hear testimony in this matter I think the law regulating the test of coal oil could be changed so that the public would not only get equally as good and perhaps better illuminating oil than they have at present, but would get the same more uniform and at less prices, and by adopting a test similar to that adopted by the States of Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania and other Eastern States, would benefit the dealer as well as the consumer.

To make the law regulating the sale and use of petroleum more effective, it would be necessary for the next Legislature to amend the present law so that the Inspector, or his deputy, is authorized to enter premises where coal oil or any product of petroleum, coming under the regulations of this law, is kept or stored, and demand samples of oils or gasoline for inspection; also, to make it unlawful and punishable for any person dealing in coal oil and gasoline to mark, brand, or label any barrel or package containing coal oil for illuminating purposes, or gasoline for heating or illuminating purposes, with grades or qualities of oil or gasoline which are false or fictitious, and which the barrel or package does not contain. It would also be desirous and to the interest of the public and the trade to reduce the bond of Deputy Inspectors from \$5,000 to \$1,000 or

\$1,500. Under the present high bond, and with the expense of buying the necessary instruments, it is very difficult to get deputies in localities where the consumption of oil is small and consequently the fees proportionately small; and to those localities the unscrupulous dealers will send their inferior oils.

The whole amount of oil for illuminating purposes inspected was 136,331 barrels, of which 695 barrels were rejected. Total amount of fees, \$10,970.55, of which myself, as State Inspector, received \$3,441.40, which leaves, after deducting \$734.45 office expenses, \$2,706.95.

Following find statement of inspection by myself and deputies; also statistical statement of oil inspected in the different months.

Respectfully submitted.

A. HAGEN,
State Inspector.

JANUARY 1, 1887.

Statement of Inspection.

NAME OF INSPECTOR.	RESIDENCE.	Barrels Approved.	Barrels Rejected.	Fees.
State Inspector	Indianapolis	40,595	390	\$3,441 40
Harry Hedden	Evansville	8,810	181	692 68
H. S. Ruddy	Vincennes	3,846	...	405 10
N. Ruppert	New Albany	8,820	...	834 70
W. R. Young	Richmond	6,310	6	494 60
*Joseph Segner	Lafayette	7,402	118	585 65
John Day	Logansport	8,549	...	665 75
Louis Hazzard	Fort Wayne	11,542	...	1,032 70
John C. Shreyer	South Bend	4,630	...	400 70
Henry Miller	Terre Haute	496	...	59 57
James T. Douglas	Wabash	495	...	86 57
J. A. Frederick	North Judson	2,017	...	279 38
Jos. Rhinock	Cincinnati	10,106	...	612 45
F. W. Green	Cleveland	22,017	...	1,379 30
†Walter Davis	Muncie
Total		135,636	695	\$10,970 55

* Report for December not received, only approximated.

† Appointed in October, 1886. No report received.

EXPENDITURES OF STATE INSPECTOR.

Office rent	\$120 00
Assistant's salary	450 00
Fuel	24 00
Instruments	33 25
Traveling expenses	82 20
Miscellaneous	95 00
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Inspector's fees	\$3,441 40
Deduct expenses	734 45
Balance	<hr/> <hr/> \$2,706 95

Inspection by Months, 1886.

MONTHS.	Barrels Approved.	Barrels Rejected.
January	14,710	60
February	13,614
March	8,313	196
April	7,037
May	6,733
June	7,002	160
July	7,301	90
August	8,824
September	11,129	65
October	16,019	66
November	17,248
December	18,401	58
Total Inspection	136,331	695