

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## STATE INSPECTOR OF MINERAL OILS

OF THE

STATE OF INDIANA.--  
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TO THE GOVERNOR.

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INDIANAPOLIS: *cl*

WM. E. BURFORD, CONTRACTOR FOR STATE PRINTING.

1884.

STATE OF INDIANA, }  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT. }

Received January 7, 1885, examined by the Governor, and filed with the Secretary of State, to be preserved in his office and printed as may be directed by the Commissioners of Public Printing.

FRANK H. BLACKLEDGE,  
*Private Secretary.*

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Filed in this office, January 10, 1885.

W. R. MYERS,  
*Secretary of State.*

## REPORT OF INSPECTOR.

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To His Excellency,

ALBERT G. PORTER,

*Governor of Indiana:*

In compliance with Section four of the act for the inspection of petroleum, passed April 11, 1881, I hand you herewith my annual report.

There has been quite a marked increase in the consumption of oil in the last year, and I am glad to say that it has not caused the loss of life or property for nearly three years; at least I have heard of no fires originating from the use of oil that has been tested. There has been several cases where gasoline and other lighter fluids were used for heating purposes, that has caused some disasters. I believe the law to be a good one and trust it may be continued. The trade generally look upon it with much favor, as it has been the means of shutting out much of the dangerous oils, and at the same time giving us a much better oil for illuminating purposes.

After the law of 1881 came into force I had a thousand copies printed at my own expense, and distributed them. I know that the law is well understood throughout the State. I also had several thousand circulars printed, and through the courtesy of the jobbing trade in the State, had them distributed. The circular reads as follows:

### SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE TRADE.

The act of the Legislature of Indiana, passed and approved April 11, 1881, for inspecting coal oil, etc., provides among other things as follows:

1. Section 8, that any person who shall sell or keep for sale to be consumed within the State, for illuminating or combus-

tive purposes, any oils whatever, except sperm or lard oil, not duly inspected, etc., shall be liable in damages for any injury that may result from the use of such oils, in any court in this State, etc.

2. Section 7 provides that any person or persons who shall sell, or in any way dispose of an empty barrel, or cask, or package, which has been branded by an inspector, before the same is thoroughly cancelled or effaced, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction be fined for each offense fifty (50) dollars, and may be imprisoned.

3. Section 6 provides that any person who shall knowingly use for lighting or illuminating purposes, any oil of any kind, except sperm or lard oil, before the same has been duly inspected, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than ten dollars.

4. Section 5 declares that any person or persons, or agent for any person, who sells or attempts to sell to any person in this State any such oils before they are inspected, etc., shall be liable to a fine of not less than fifty or more than three hundred dollars, and may be imprisoned.

I have heard of no attempt at an evasion of the law. By placing a Deputy at the larger distributing points, and in fact wherever I found it necessary, I believe all oil has been carefully inspected, and so far as I know have given satisfaction.

The Following Table Shows the Amount of Oil Inspected for the Year Ending December, 31, 1884.

	BARRELS INSPECTED.		Fees.
	Approved.	Rejected.	
State Inspector. . . . .	37,765	490	\$3,270 40
Wm. L. Hallock . . . . .	6,770		529 71
B. M. Willoughby . . . . .	2,500	60	302 62
S. E. Swayne. . . . .	6,385		638 50
Col. J. F. McQuiddy. . . . .	7,187		551 07
Thomas Bishop. . . . .	716	2	114 60
Robert B. Roe . . . . .	5,931		439 93
Michael Fornoff . . . . .	6,232		749 90
J. W. H. McGuire. . . . .	3,555		353 05
Louis Smithnight . . . . .	17,080		1,724 84
S. F. Swayne . . . . .	10,834		620 02
Reuben Fancher . . . . .	360	2	116 80
Henry Weithoff . . . . .	9,460		956 27
James H. State. . . . .	9,705		1,163 94
Walter L. Davis . . . . .	1,634		199 40
Total . . . . .	126,114	554	\$11,779 05
Office rent. . . . .	\$120		
Instruments, traveling, and other expenses. . . . .	\$495		\$615 00

All of which is respectfully submitted

E. H. SWAYNE,

*State Inspector.*