

INSPECTION LAW.

A BILL TO AMEND THE MICHIGAN INSPECTION LAW.

A BILL—To amend section 1461, 1462, 1465, 1476, 1480, 1496, and 1500 of the compiled laws of 1871, being sections of the act entitled "an act to regulate the manufacture and provide for the inspection of salt."

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact*, that sections 1461, 1462, 1465, 1476, 1480, 1496 and 1500 of the compiled laws of 1871, being sections of an act entitled "an act to regulate the manufacture and provide for the inspection of salt," shall be and the same are hereby amended so as to read as follows:

(1461) Sec 4. The inspector shall be entitled to receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars. He shall also be allowed the further sum of five hundred dollars annually for the expense of providing and furnishing his office, and for clerk hire, stationery, books, printing and traveling expenses. His deputies shall be entitled to such sums as he may approve, not exceeding in any case the sum of one hundred dollars per month for the time actually employed. All salaries and expenses provided for by this act shall be retained by the inspector out of the money received under section five of this act, and accounted for and paid out by him as provided in this act; salaries to be paid monthly: provided, that in case the amount of money received for the inspection of salt, according to the provisions of section five, shall not be sufficient to pay the salaries and expenses of the inspector and his deputies as provided herein, that the amount of such deficiency shall be deducted from said salaries *pro rata* to each.

(1462) Sec 5. Each person, firm, company and corporation engaged in the manufacture of salt, or for whom any salt shall be inspected, shall from time to time, as salt is inspected or offered for inspection, pay on demand to the inspector, or to the deputy of the district where the salt is inspected, two miles for each bushel of salt inspected or offered for inspection: provided, that the same may be required to be paid in advance; and provided further, that but one inspection fee shall be paid on the same salt. In case any person, firm company or corporation shall neglect or refuse to pay such inspection fees, on demand, at this, their or its office or manufactory, the party so refusing shall be liable to an action therefor, in the name of

the inspector; and the certificate of inspection, with proof of the signature of the inspector or deputy giving the same, shall be *prima facie* proof of the liability; and the extent of the liability of the party so in default; and it shall be lawful for the inspector and his deputies to refuse to inspect salt manufactured at the works so in default, until the amount due is paid; all money received by or paid to any inspector under this section shall forthwith be paid to the inspector. The inspector shall keep just and true accounts of all money received under this section, and an account of the amounts received from or paid by each person, firm, company or corporation engaged in the manufacture of salt, and all other things pertaining to the duties of the office, and the said books and accounts shall always during office hours be subject to the inspection and examination of any person who may wish to examine them, shall be deemed the books of the office, and shall be handed over to his successor in office, together with all the money and effects belonging to the office.

(1465.) Sec. 8. The inspector shall keep his principal office in either Saginaw or Bay county, and the deputy for the district in which such office is located may occupy the same office. This office shall be open at all times during business hours. All the books, records and accounts shall be kept in this office, and each deputy shall, at least once a week, make a written report by mail or otherwise, to the inspector, of the salt inspected by him during the week, stating for whom, and the quantity and quality thereof. Abstracts of these reports shall be entered in books provided for the purpose. Said inspector, shall in proper books, keep a full record and account of all his transactions; and such books shall be open for the inspection and examination of all persons wishing to examine the same during office hours.

(1476.) Sec. 19. Each inspector or deputy shall deliver to the party for whom he shall inspect salt a certificate of the quantity and quality inspected, and shall thereupon direct the employes of the manufacturer to brand and mark, under his personal supervision, with durable paint, the package containing the salt so inspected, with the surname of the inspector at length, and the initials of his Christian name, with the addition of the word "Inspector," in letters at least one inch in length, and shall also cause to be marked or pranded by the employes of the manufac-

turer, upon the head of the barrel, cask, or package, the weight prescribed for such barrel cask or package by the inspector, when such weights are in conformity to the rules and regulations prescribed by the inspector in that regard, and if such weights do not correspond to the rules and regulations, he shall cause the same to be repacked so as to conform thereto.

(1480.) Sec. 23. The inspector and his deputies, in their daily examination of the several salt manufactories, shall examine all bins of salt for the purpose of ascertaining whether any salt is packed contrary to the provisions of the foregoing section.

(1496.) Sec. 39. In case of any vacancy, from any cause, in the office of the inspector, the deputy who has been longest in office shall possess the power and perform the duties of inspector until such vacancy shall be filled; and the bond of the inspector and his sureties shall continue to be liable for the acts of all the deputies until such vacancy shall be filled.

(1500.) Sec. 43. In case the inspector shall, at the time of making any annual report, have a surplus of money arising from the inspection fees in this act provided for, in his hands, he shall apportion back and pay such surplus to the persons, firms or corporations for whom salt has been inspected during the last preceding year in proportion to the amounts paid by them respectively for inspection fees: provided, that in no case shall the state be held liable for any obligation or expenditure in consequence of any of the provisions of this act.

Matches to Come to an End.

The Paris correspondent of The London Daily News has been shown a simple apparatus which will probably sweep away the match trade. It is called the electrical tinder-box, and is small enough to be carried in a cigar-case. Opening this box, you see a platinum wire stretched across. Touching a spring, the wire reddens sufficiently to light a cigar. At will you can introduce into a tiny scone a mesh of cotton steeped in spirits of wine or petroleum, which, taking fire, does service as a nurse's lamp. The hidden agency which heats the wire is a very small electrical battery, set in action by the touching of the spring. The trade price of the "electrical tinder-box" will be half a franc, or fivepence. Its inventor promises that it will be an economical substitute for the lucifer match.

Uncle Billy's Objections to Civil Rights.

I "interviewed" Uncle Billy, a good old colored friend of mine, the other day, on the question of civil rights.

"Don't want nuffin mo'," said Uncle Billy. "Got too much already fur dis niggah."

"How is that, Uncle Billy? Is it not a good thing to be equal before the law?"

"Now, Marse Boss," grunted Billy, plaintively, "dar's just whar the misery comes in. We're ekal befo' de law, and dar you hit our weak pint. Befo' de waw, ef niggah stole chicken an' pig, yer jerked him up, guv him thirty-nine lashes, an' let him go. But jist let a cullud pusson try it now! Yer hauls him 'fore court, and sen's him to de penitentiary, jist like he was one of yer poor white trash. Dat's what 'tis to be ekal 'fore de law!

I suggested to Uncle Billy that this might be obviated by being a little more honest.

"Marse boss," interrupted Billy, "we can't run agin natur'. It's nat'rul for niggah to steal pig and chicken, fryin' size. Yer knows it is, an' 'tain't no use tryin' to stop us. Now, we uns are willin' to let you uns alone, and you all jist let us alone on this pint. We're powerful weak on dis pint, Marse Boss."

Just here a perverse and disloyal spirit tempted me to hint to uncle Billy that the colored people were indebted to their republican friends for this change in their status.

"Well, den, Marse Boss," said he, "all Ise got to say is, de law's got to be changed. Mus' hab a law for de white man and a law for de black man."

Strange as it may seem, some of our best citizens echo Uncle Billy's sentiment. They are inclined to view the negro's minor transgressions in a lenient light, and I know that some of our democratic judges impose lighter penalties upon colored men for small offenses than they would do in cases where the guilty parties were white.

Before Uncle Billy left I asked him how he would like to sit down at the table with white folks in the hotels.

"Great Goddlemighty!" exclaimed the good old man. "I allow youse tryin' to make fun o' dis ehila. Why, you knows yourself dat no cullud pusson ebber let a white man see 'em eat ef dey can help it!"

This is strictly true. The ordinary Southern negro will not eat in the presence of a white spectat'or.

"Well, Uncle Billy." I said, "it is very