

HOUSE....No. 125.

[Bill offered as a substitute for Report ought not to pass.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty.

AN ACT

For the regulation of Gas Companies and the better protection of consumers of Gas.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 SECT. 1. The mayor and aldermen of every city in
2 the Commonwealth shall, and the selectmen of every
3 town where a gas company exists may, appoint annu-
4 ally a suitable person as inspector of gas, whose duty
5 it shall be to test the quality of the gas and the accu-
6 racy of the meters used in such city or town.

1 SECT. 2. In every city, and in every town where
2 such inspector is appointed, it shall be the duty of the
3 gas company therein to provide and furnish for his
4 use a suitable room or laboratory, having a gasometer
5 holding at least ten feet of gas, made with proper bal-
6 ances, indices and adjustments, a special meter or
7 regulator for accurately measuring the capacity of
8 any kind of gas meter; and supplied with all other
9 apparatus necessary or useful in testing meters.

1 SECT. 3. Gas companies may use either wet or dry
2 meters of any description; but in every city, and in
3 every town where an inspector is appointed, every
4 meter shall before being used, be tested by the inspec-
5 tor, and stamped by him with his name, the date of
6 stamping, and the number of burners it can supply;
7 and whenever any meter is repaired it shall be tested
8 and stamped anew.

1 SECT. 4. In testing meters the inspector shall
2 ascertain, first, whether the meter is of proper con-
3 struction, and requires only the pressure of one-fourth
4 of an inch to work it: second, whether it works regu-
5 larly and correctly, and registers exactly the amount
6 of gas passing through it. The standard foot shall
7 be one cubic foot containing sixty-two six hundred
8 twenty-one one thousandths pounds avoirdupois
9 weight of distilled water at the temperature of sixty-
10 two degrees Fahrenheit, and with a barometrical
11 pressure of thirty inches; and meters working with a
12 pressure of not more than one-fourth of an inch, and
13 registering within two per centum of the exact number
14 of such feet passing through them, and no others shall
15 be deemed accurate and be stamped by the inspector.

1 SECT. 5. Any gas meter shall be inspected or tested
2 at any time by the inspector upon the request of either
3 the gas company or consumer, and on the premises of
4 the consumer, if desired. And the inspector may
5 for this purpose, at any reasonable time, enter on any
6 building or premises where gas is used.

1 SECT. 6. It shall also be the duty of the inspector
2 to test and determine photo-metrically and chemically
3 the quality and illuminating power of the gas sup-
4 plied to consumers, and also the pressure in the service
5 pipes at two points distant from the gas works; and
6 to report the results monthly to the mayor and alder-
7 men of the city or selectmen of the town, for which he
8 is appointed. These reports shall state the average
9 pressure of the gas in the pipes and its average qual-
10 ity and illuminating power, as ascertained by at least
11 twenty separate observations in each month; and they
12 may also contain any facts or suggestions as to the
13 more economical combustion of gas by improved
14 burners, diminished pressure, the size of the flame, or
15 any other matter of interest to consumers of gas.

1 SECT. 7. The standard for the illuminating power
2 of gas shall be at least twelve candles; that is,
3 a Liverpool argand burner, consuming five cubic feet
4 of gas per hour, must afford as much light as twelve
5 spermaceti candles consuming one hundred and twenty
6 grains each per hour, at the temperature of sixty
7 degrees Fahrenheit. But gas companies which have
8 already adopted a different standard, and based their
9 price on that standard, may either retain that stand-
10 ard or adopt the standard hereby established, making

