



CHAPTER xlii.

An Act to make provision for the testing of gas supplied by the Commercial Gas Company and for other purposes. A.D. 1903.

[30th June 1903.]

WHEREAS by the Commercial Gas Act 1875 (in this Act called "the Act of 1875") it was provided (section 34) that the burner for testing the gas supplied by the Commercial Gas Company (in this Act called "the Company") should be a Sugg's London Argand such as immediately before the passing of that Act was the burner prescribed and used by the gas referees under the City of London Gas Act 1868 for testing gas and (section 52) that the gas supplied by the Company should with respect to its illuminating power be such as to produce when consumed at the rate of five cubic feet per hour in the burner prescribed as aforesaid a light equal in intensity to the light produced by sixteen candles and (section 53) that the standard price to be charged by the Company for gas supplied by them should be three shillings and ninepence per one thousand cubic feet subject to increase or decrease as in that Act provided :

And whereas with a view to enabling the Company to meet the demands of consumers more economically and efficiently the illuminating power of the gas supplied by them prescribed as aforesaid was by the Commercial Gas Act 1902 (in this Act called "the Act of 1902") reduced to fourteen candles and in consideration of the saving to the Company in the cost of manufacture of gas which would thus be effected the standard price to be charged by the Company for gas supplied by them was by the Act of 1902 fixed at three shillings and threepence subject to increase or decrease as in that Act provided :

And whereas the Bill for the Act of 1902 contained a clause modifying the aforesaid provisions of the Act of 1875 relating to

[*Price 3d.*]

A.D. 1903. — the testing of gas so as to make the like provisions for the testing of fourteen-candle power gas as were already in force with respect to the supply of gas of that illuminating power in certain other parts of London but in view of representations made during the passage of the Bill through Parliament on behalf of the London County Council the Company agreed to withdraw the said clause in the belief that the gas referees appointed by the Board of Trade for the purpose of prescribing the method in which the gas supplied by the Company should be tested would have full power to prescribe the apparatus to be used in and method of testing gas appropriate to the candle power as reduced as aforesaid :

And whereas the aforesaid gas referees have intimated that in testing the gas they are bound by the aforesaid provisions of the Act of 1875 both with regard to the burner to be used in such testing and the rate at which the gas shall be consumed in such burner :

And whereas the effect of testing gas of such reduced candle power under these restrictions will be to prevent consumers from obtaining gas of the illuminating power which was contemplated by the Company when the Act of 1902 was passed and to deprive the Company to a large extent of the benefits which were contemplated by the Company when the price to be charged by them for gas was by that Act reduced :

And whereas the Company desire that the provisions of the Act of 1875 with respect to the testing of the gas supplied by the Company be amended and provision made with respect to the testing of such gas as hereinafter contained :

And whereas the Board of Trade are about to appoint a departmental committee to inquire (inter alia) into the question of existing methods of testing the gas supplied by certain companies supplying within the administrative county of London :

And whereas it has been agreed between the Company and the London County Council who is the authority by statute charged with the testing of the gas of the Company that in view of the appointment of the said departmental committee the said council shall not oppose such temporary amendments and temporary provisions being made with respect to the testing of the Company's gas as are hereinafter contained but that the making of such temporary amendments and provisions shall not be deemed to in any way prejudice any inquiry before the said departmental committee and shall not be construed as implying any acquiescence or agreement on the part of the London County Council that such amendments or provisions are desirable or expedient :

And whereas the objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament : A.D. 1903.

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say) :—

1. This Act may be cited as the Commercial Gas Act 1903. Short title.

2. The burner for testing gas supplied by the Company shall be Sugg's London Argand as prescribed by section 34 of the Act of 1875 and in making such testing shall be so used that the gas shall notwithstanding anything contained in section 52 of the Act of 1875 be burnt at such a rate as shall give a light equal to sixteen candles. As to testing illuminating power.

The said burner shall be used with the chimney prescribed by the gas referees for gas of an illuminating power of fourteen candles.

3. This Act shall cease and determine at the expiration of three years from the passing thereof. Cesser of Act.

4. All the costs charges and expenses of incident and preliminary to the preparing and applying for obtaining and passing of this Act and otherwise in relation thereto shall be paid by the Company. Expenses of Act.

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