

No. 431, S.]

[Published June 24, 1905.

**CHAPTER 459.**

AN ACT relating to the electricity and gas in cities and villages and empowering cities and villages to inspect the same.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**Gas inspection.** SECTION 1. All cities and villages in this state are hereby empowered to inspect the quality of gas furnished by gas companies in all such cities and villages. The gas of every company which supplies more than fifty consumers shall be inspected at least twice a year and once additional for every six million cubic feet of gas supplied by each company, but not oftener than once a week. The gas shall be tested for illuminating power by means of a disc photometer, and during such test shall be burned from a burner best adapted to it, which is at the same time suitable for domestic use, and at as near the rate of five feet an hour as practicable. The gas shall also be tested in some proper and scientific manner for the heating qualities thereof.

**Room for inspection to be provided.** SECTION 2. Every gas-light company shall annually manufacture more than fifteen million cubic feet of gas made and sold for illuminating purposes and heating purposes shall provide a suitable room, at least one quarter of a mile from the gas works containing such apparatus for testing purposes as the authorities of each city or village shall direct. Said rooms shall be open to all city authorities from seven o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night.

**Tests, character of.** SECTION 3. Said examinations and tests shall also determine the amount of sulphur, ammonia and hot air per hundred cubic feet of gas and the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen. Said examinations shall also determine the evenness, uniformity and regularity of the pressure. If companies make less gas than is herein prescribed then such tests may be made in such manner as such city authorities or officers shall direct.

**Penalty, when applied.** SECTION 4. If the gas of any company is found upon three consecutive inspections to give less light than sixteen standard English candles or to contain more than twenty grains of sulphur or ten grains of ammonia per hundred cubic feet or any sulphuretted hydrogen, it shall be subject to the penalty hereinafter provided.

**State chemist to determine standard.** SECTION 5. The state chemist designated by the state dairy and food commissioner is hereby directed to determine a standard of testing power, evenness of pressure, and as to amount of hot air in all gas and the heating value thereof, which when so determined shall be the state standard until thereafter altered or corrected by such official. He shall thereafter notify the cities and villages of the state of said standard so adopted and the different municipalities are hereby given authority to make standards for testing power, evenness of pressure and as to the amount of hot air in all gas. Violations of such provisions, regulations or ordinances shall be punished in the manner prescribed in section seven of this act.

**Electric light plants may be examined.** SECTION 6. Any city or village is hereby authorized to examine or cause to be examined all public electric light plants of whatever kind furnishing electric light of any kind to any city or village and to make tests of the manner of recording the amount of electricity sold or furnished to any city or village. Every city or village is empowered to examine at any time all machinery, mechanisms and appliances necessary to ascertain the true amount of electric power or light furnished to any city or village.

**Forfeiture.** SECTION 7. If it shall be proven, upon three consecutive tests, that the quality of such electric light or such gas is violating any contract with any city, village, person, company or corporation, either as to ingredients or as to quality then any person or corporation owning such plant or plants or having any franchise from the municipality shall be subject to a forfeiture of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each and every offense against the provisions of this act, to be recovered as other actions of forfeiture, one-half of the sum so recovered to be paid to the prosecuting witness and the remainder thereof to the municipality granting the franchise.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved June 19, 1905.