NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

DURING the time when the British Union Oil Company was searching for Oil in Barbados, a reservoir of Natural Gas was discovered on the lands of Turner’s Hall plantation, and in recent years the Company has distributed Natural Gas to certain public institutions and to the Barbados Gas Company for supplying private consumers.

The Petroleum Act, 1929, vested the property in Natural Gas in the Government in Executive Committee, and provision was made for compensation to be paid to lessees and lessors of private wells. In May of this year the supply of Natural Gas was threatened with cessation as a result of the premature and incorrect proclamation of the Act. When it was announced that the Gulf Corporation, an American Oil Company, had been granted a prospecting lease of the Natural Gas Wells at Turner’s Hall in lieu of compensation, the negotiations were begun between the Government and the B.U.O.C. for that Company to take lease of the Natural Gas Wells at Turner’s Hall and to maintain the supply to the public and means of ensuring that there be no conflict of title and means of ensuring that there be no

tension between the Government and the B.U.O.C.

On Tuesday last, a Bill was introduced into the House of Assembly which seeks to establish a corporation whose duty it will be to run the Natural Gas Wells and to maintain the supply to the public and to public institutions. The Bill also provides for the compensation of the pipeline and fittings now the property of the British Union Oil Co., with compensation to be settled, in default of agreement, by arbitration.

It is necessary for the consideration of this Bill that these two objects should be kept separate. The unsoundness of the proposition and the rationalisation of Natural Gas is a logical development of the passing of the Petroleum Act. Members of the Legislature may well have some un

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