

If reference is made to the reports on the adulteration of food which have been published by the Department, it will be seen that the number of samples of distilled and malt liquors, wines, liqueurs and cordials collected and analysed since 1883 has been as follows :—

Year ending	Total No. of Samples Collected and Examined.	No. Found to be Adulterated	No. Found Doubtful.	No. Found to be Un-adulterated.
June 30th, 1883	46	8	1	37
do 1884	113	9	3	101
do 1885	85	19	7	59
do 1886	210	31	3	176
do 1887	50	6	2	42
do 1888	164	23	10	131
do 1889	12	6	0	6
Total	680	102	26	552

All these samples were collected from retail dealers. In general it may be remarked that the adulterations detected consisted for the most part of dilution by water, and the addition of colouring substances not injurious to health. None of the substances enumerated in the first schedule of the Adulteration Act were found in any of the samples, with the exception of occasional traces of amyl-alcohol (fusel oil). Diligent search for methyl-alcohol (from the possible addition of methylated spirit) failed to discover any.

The liquors sold under the names brandy, rum, gin, whiskey, &c., have been found, when samples of each class were compared with each other, to vary considerably as regards alcoholic strength. Nevertheless, it was not found practicable to institute prosecutions for the sale of liquors deficient in alcohol, because in all such instances they had not been offered for sale under any professed standard, and because there is no legal standard of strength yet established for these liquors in Canada. No doubt section 19 of the Adulteration Act gives the Governor in Council power to establish such standards, but this has not yet been acted upon.

In the course of the discharge of their duties, the officers of this branch have become aware that, among the various brands of distilled liquors offered for sale in Canada, there are many of a spurious character, not derived from the source indicated by their names, and, in fact, as stated in the newspaper extract above quoted, made up of alcohol, water and other materials. It was, however, found to be a difficult matter to distinguish the factitious from the genuine article, and no attempt in this direction appears to have been made by any of the public analysts. In fact, the existence of this sort of manufacture has long been known to and recognized by the Inland Revenue Department, but it is only recently that the various ethers, essences and oils used in the production of spurious brandy, rum, gin, whiskey, &c., have been publicly offered for sale. This branch is, however, not yet in possession of any information to show that advantage has been taken of these facilities by retailers, to any very large extent, to manufacture brandies, &c., on their own premises.