

and not compulsion - are the marks of our enforcement programme.

If producers are negligent in manufacturing methods or misleading in their claims, sample purchases made by our field officers will soon be on their way to a Food and Drugs Laboratory where the purity of the product, the accuracy of the claims made in its label and its advertising will all be carefully studied and any necessary action taken.

#### History of Canada's Food and Drug Law

The story of regulations for the sale of food and of drugs is as old as civilization. In earlier ages there was less need for control because so many people produced their own food, but as society became less rural in organization, it had to plan to protect its members against undesirable and even dangerous adulteration of food, drink and medicine, as well as against misleading and fraudulent claims.

For thousands of years, the need for such rules and regulations has been recognized. To bake poor bread in ancient Rome was a crime to be severely punished. A stern view has always been taken of anyone brewing bad beer - whether it was in ancient Athens or in medieval England.

In Canada, too, even before Confederation there was some control of the quality of food sold. In Nova Scotia, for example, standards were maintained for butter, bread, fish and meat. But Canada's historic food and drugs legislation developed primarily out of the fear of bad liquor. In 1874, Sir Richard Cartwright moved a resolution in the Canadian House of Commons "that all carrying on business as compounders and mixers of wine, brandy, or other alcoholic liquors be required to take out a licence to do so." Within two weeks, assent was given to "an Act to impose licence dues on compounders of spirits, and to amend the Act respecting Inland Revenue, and to prevent the adulteration of food, drink and drugs". In actual fact, after the Act came into operation with the appointment of local analysts at Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Quebec in March, 1876, little attention was paid to alcoholic spirits.

Since 1875, Canada's Food and Drugs legislation has been improved until it stands today a model of its kind. It is because our regulations are usually voluntarily observed, and it is because they are vigilantly enforced, that Canadians can buy with confidence at their corner grocery or drug store. Our consumers have learned to demand quality products in food and drugs, while our producers have learned the wisdom of giving good value for their money.

We have come a long way in Canada since the days of the insanitary bakehouse where bread was kneaded with the feet. The first annual report of the new regulatory service showed 51.5 per cent of food samples to be adulterated. In four years, this figure had been cut in half, and today the percentage is very small. Because of a long period of careful control and because of the quick acceptance of the practical business advantages of following good standards, we no longer find strawberry jam without strawberries; tea that is largely composed of worthless but cleverly dyed leaves, mixed with sand and floor sweepings; or coffee that is mainly roasted peas and corn. The falsification of spices and condiments in 1883 was so uniform it seems to have been practiced according to formula, and the samples examined were almost two-thirds adulterated.