

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

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FLAVOURING SYRUPS, Etc.

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Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR.—I would respectfully call your attention to the fact that, during recent years, this department has frequently been asked to look into the matter of fruit syrups and kindred preparations as supplied to the trade for use in soda fountain beverages. We have been prevented from taking up the subject earlier by press of other work; but in June of this year a collection of 141 samples to be made in the cities and principal towns of the Dominion and these have been carefully worked over, with results as inclosed. The investigation was placed in charge of Mr. Geo. H. Brother of this staff, and his report is herewith submitted.

An Order in Council of February, 1911 (published as Circular G. 947) defines fresh fruit juices and sweet fruit juices; but only in very general terms, and without special regard to the employment of these articles for soda fountain use. The beverages offered at these fountains are not usually claimed to be fruit juices, but are essentially aerated water (soda water) flavoured with a fruit juice, which may be actually such, or may be a synthetic preparation imitating the fruit which gives its name to the drink. In the latter case, the satisfactory character of the preparation, so far as flavour is concerned, will depend upon the skill of the manufacturer; and provided that the ingredients are harmless, and that the article is properly described as an imitation, and not as a true fruit juice, there is no ground for complaint. The employment of preservatives and dyes, under the conditions of G. 1111 and G. 1167 is permitted.

These soda fountain syrups are now so largely used that it is desirable to define them more closely than at present is the case under G. 947; and it was mainly with a view to obtaining information regarding them that the work herein reported was undertaken.