

In June of last year I was fortunate enough to secure, through the kindness of the late Mr. Grigg, Canadian Commissioner of Commerce, three samples of mace from Mr. E. H. S. Hood, Canadian Trade Commissioner of Barbados. These represent the qualities of mace exported from Grenada, B.W.I., and are described as:

- No. 1. First quality.
No. 2. Second quality.
No. 3. Third quality.

The Superintendent of Agriculture for Grenada states that "he does not think there is any adulteration in the No. 3 sample, other than what may accidentally occur in the process of sweeping up the fragments from the curing floors or boxes. The differences in quality are mainly of colour, and strength of the aromatic oil as affected by the action of mildews during drying, and the length of time, and methods used in the curing process."

The three samples referred to were submitted to analysis by Mr. J. A. Dawson of this staff, who reports as follows:

Sample No. 1. Marked "Best Estates and Buyers" consisted of the clean arillus in whole condition, of a dull yellow colour, with reddish brown to pink along the edges. Weighed 465 grams.

Sample No. 2. Marked "2nd Best Estates and Buyers" was made up of mostly broken arillus of dull reddish to blackish brown colour, with few yellow pieces. One or two fragments of grass or bark. Weighed 493 grams.

Sample No. 3. Marked "Mace Siftings, Estates and Buyers" included small broken fragments of arillns of yellow, red and black or brown colours. Pieces of grass, bark, leaves and chips of wood, with a few whole seeds like peas or coffee beans. Several short pieces of thread, possibly from jute bags, and two dead insects. Weight, 487 grams.

In sampling, the whole contents of each package were spread out on a sheet of paper and thoroughly mixed. About 100 grams were weighed out and ground to pass a sieve of 1 sq. mm. Figures given are in all cases the mean of two determinations.

	No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
Total ash.....	1.50	1.70	2.10
Ash insol. in 10% HCl.....	0.05	0.05	0.09
Non-volatile petrolic ether extractive.....	29.85	29.02	26.43
Non-vol. ether extractive after petrolic.....	1.14	1.43	1.55
Total ether extracts.....	30.99	30.45	27.98
Crude fibre.....	2.87	3.14	3.80
Refractive index of non-vol. petrolic ether extract.....	1.4791	1.4788	1.4821
Microscopic examination for Bombay mace.....	None.	None.	None.
Starch (iodine test).....	Absent.	Absent.	Absent.

Two samples of mace obtained direct from Bombay, through the kindness of A. H. Ley, Esq., gave the following results:

Sample A. Known as "Chap" cost 1s. 10d. per lb.

" B. " " Ful " " 1s. 8d. "

	A	B
Total ash.....	1.94	1.96
Insoluble ash.....	0.044	0.012
Crude fibre.....	3.80	3.60
Petrolic ether extract.....	20.95	20.94
Sulph. ".....	0.87	0.54
Total extractive.....	21.82	21.48