

## ADULTERATION AS AN ART.

Inland Revenue Department Divulges a Few Trade Secrets and Discusses Some Food Questions.

The housewife in gazing admiringly upon the tomato catsup, little thinks it may possibly possess color obtained from other places than the heart of the succulent tomato. In the report of the Inland Revenue Department for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1907, Mr. Thomas MacFarlane, the chief analyst, speaks of such matters. The use of the dye, he says, is unnecessary when the catsup is made from fresh tomatoes. It is when the fruit is "out of season" and the pulp has to be kept in stock for a considerable time that the color suffers and the use of a dye becomes necessary. In such cases it might be reasonably inferred that they have been colored to conceal damage, or that the dye has been used to make the article appear of greater value than it really is, and consequently that the word "adulterated" should be applied. Twenty-three out of the forty-nine samples examined were found to be dyed and consequently thus adulterated.

## Salt and Foreign Substances.

Even the innocent condiment, salt, has suffered from adulteration. Among the samples examined there were six which contain foreign substances insoluble in water, and which were apparently added to prevent the particles of salt from caking together. It does not appear that this constitutes adulteration, for the Act provides that the usual definitions shall not apply, "if any matter or ingredient not injurious to health has been added to the food or drug because the same is required for the production or preparation thereof as an article of commerce in a fit state for carriage or consumption, and not fraudulently to increase the bulk weight or measure of the food or drug, or to conceal the inferior quality thereof." Nevertheless it would seem to be necessary that these brands should each, on selling, be labelled as a mixture.

It was thought last year that large quantities of artificially colored green Japan and Ceylon teas were imported into the Canadian market by every steamer. Many samples were collected, but no evidence of adulteration was found although there were great variations as regards quality. Eighty-nine samples were examined, eighty-two were found genuine, and seven doubtful. Two of the doubtful samples came from Montreal, two from British Columbia, and one each from Ottawa, Toronto and London.

## Importation of Oleomargarine.

Mr. MacFarlane thinks that oleomargarine in small quantities is either being imported into Canada or is being manufactured here. Which reminds one of the story of the gentleman who christened his goat Oleomargarine, because he was a good "butter." Of the one hundred and one samples collected, ninety were found to be genuine, four doubtful, and seven adulterated. Four of the adulterated samples came from Montreal. Several were adulterated with water.

Breakfast foods came in for quite a long report, some ninety-nine samples being examined. Mr. MacFarlane somewhat sarcastically observes that the "predigestion" claimed by many of the foods is by no means complete, and that the use of the saliva and gastric juice cannot yet be dispensed with.

## Reminds one of Patent Medicine Advertising.

"It has not been found advisable," he says, "to introduce into the description of the various brands described all the claims made for them, some of which remind one of patent medicine advertising. But the essential features of the claims made are placed on record, and it is impossible to avoid remarking on the different degrees of subdivision effected in their treatment. That varies from 'rolling' to 'flaking' of a very complete character in which the grains are brought into the condition of thin, semitranslucent laminae. It is quite possible that this thinning out increases the digestibility but it is a question as to whether this change is worth the extra cost. It is not easy to get at the price of these articles per pound owing to the indefinite and varying weights contained in the packages. But it seems to amount to from 5 to 23 cents per lb. Since oatmeal or wheaten flour is retailed at from 3 to 4 cents, it becomes a question as to how far the extra price is justified."

"With reference to the question of adulteration it does not appear that any of the samples can be challenged with effect under any of the provisions of the Act. The names under which they are sold are too fanciful and indefinite, and do not admit of being compared with their composition. Even in the case of those foods which claim to be 'malted,' and may not contain diastase it is doubtful as to whether they could be challenged in the absence of a standard."

Mr. R. R. Dawson, teller at the Crown Bank's Burford Village, Ont., branch, committed suicide on Thursday. No explanation of his rash act is available.

## COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

The following are the ore shipments, in pounds, for the week ended November 30th: Foster, 98,500; Hudson Bay, 134,000; Kerr Lake (Jacobs), 44,000; La Rose, 1,265,000; Nova Scotia, 92,230; Silver Queen, 120,000; Trethewey, 53,750; Townsite, 42,200; Temiskaming, 63,000; total, 1,912,680 pounds, or 95.6 tons.

The following are the ore shipments, in pounds, since January 1st:—

Buffalo, 2,138,820; City of Cobalt, 101,230; Coniagas, 4,622,820; Cobalt Central, 101,360; Colonial, 74,250; Drummond, 108,920; Foster, 611,806; Green-Meehan, 196,780; Hudson Bay, 179,170; Imperial Cobalt, 37,530; Kerr Lake (Jacobs), 539,770; La Rose, 5,491,545; McKinley Darragh, 1,012,513; Nipissing, 4,468,000; Nova Scotia, 248,230; Red Rock, 91,443; Right-of-Way, 134,530; Silver Leaf, 43,518; Silver Queen, 957,157; Trethewey, 1,648,438; Townsite, 234,278; Temiskaming, 355,011; University, 61,383.

The total shipments since January 1, 1907 are now 25,995,811 pounds, or 12,997 tons. In 1904 the camp produced 153 tons, valued at \$136,217; in 1905, 2,144 tons, valued at \$1,473,196; in 1906, 5,129 tons, valued at \$3,900,000.

The output for November is more than double any previous month.

## FACTORY LOCATIONS.

The following Canadian municipalities are offering inducements to secure manufacturing enterprises. Those interested should correspond with the parties named below. In order to facilitate the bringing together of manufacturing firms with municipalities ready to make special concessions, we are charging a very nominal rate for cards in this column. It will be furnished for the asking.

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