

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA

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COCA-COLA (SYRUP).

OTTAWA, February 12, 1912.

W. J. GERALD, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—It has frequently been suspected that cocaine might be present, as such, in the beverage known as Coca-Cola, and representations to this effect have several times been made to this department. In consequence of these complaints I have more than once examined the article, as found in the local market; and on the 14th July, 1910, I reported to you the results of inspection as follows:—

"I beg to refer to yours of the 15th April (L. 69721) on the subject of Coca-Cola; also to a further letter (L. 71528) dated 15th June, touching the same matter.

"Since receipt of these letters I have had correspondence with various persons, with a view to getting, at first hand, information regarding analysis, &c., and would specially acknowledge the courtesy of W. C. Gordonsmith, City Editor of the *Witness*, Montreal.

"The only definite information regarding the composition of Coca-Cola which I have been able to get, is as follows:—

"Dr. Charles A. Crampton, chemist to the Internal Revenue, Washington:—

"The content of caffeine is about $\frac{1}{1000}$ of one per cent. The other constituents were cocaine in a small amount, and theobromine in a small amount." (Quoted by Dr. H. W. Wiley, in a letter to Mr. Gordonsmith, dated 17th May, 1910.)

In the same letter Dr. Wiley says:—"No report or other publication, setting forth the composition of this product (Coca-Cola) has been published by the department up to the present time."

"*Farmers' Bulletin* 393, Department of Agriculture, Washington, issued 29 April, 1910, gives, in very general terms, a popular presentation of the subject of Medicated Soft Drinks, but contains no analytical data.