

LABORATORY  
OF THE  
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
OTTAWA, CANADA

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BULLETIN No. 366

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CANNED PEAS

OTTAWA, March 16, 1917.

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Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 210 samples of canned peas. All of these samples prove to be of good quality so far as the vegetable matter is concerned.

The special object had in view in this collection was the ascertaining whether or not departmental regulations as regards the presence of copper in peas were being observed.

Our last systematic inspection of peas, was made in 1909, and is published as Bulletin No. 192. No regulations in the matter of copper colouring existed at that time; and it was particularly desired to ascertain whether or not the presence of such amounts of copper as experience has shown sufficient to give a desired colour to peas, was attended with danger to the health of the consumer.

I recommended that the subject should be referred to competent medical authorities; and as the result of such action, the following decision was reached, and is incorporated in an Order in Council of January 9, 1915, published as G. 1167.

"III. In all cases except such as are covered by sections I and II above, the presence of artificial colouring matter must be declared upon the label, in easily legible type.

IV. When used in the amounts necessary to produce desirable colours in foods, the following substances are regarded in the light of present knowledge of their physiological effects, as harmless to health, within the meaning of the Adulteration Act. Should more extended knowledge of the effects upon the health of any of the colouring matters named below establish their harmfulness, they would, in such case, come under section 3 (f) of the Adulteration Act; and their presence in foods would constitute adulteration:—

Copper salts, in the greening of peas, provided that the amount of copper (expressed as metallic copper) in the peas does not exceed 80 parts (by weight) per million in the drained peas or 10 parts per million in the imbedding liquid."

The inspection now reported shows that only 26 samples out of a total of 210 samples are coloured with copper. These are, as far as can be ascertained, all