

Even more remarkable are the geographical fluctuations in moral standards as shown by last year's bulletins.

In the great metropolitan city of Montreal, only two samples of syrup were taken (fortunately for Montreal's reputation), one was genuine and one was adulterated. But in the District of Victoria, one out of three samples was stigmatized as adulterated, and that came from Montreal. In Nova Scotia only two samples were adulterated and both came from Montreal; they were of two brands, but put up by the same firm. In Prince Edward Island only three samples were adulterated and one of those came from the same Montreal firm. In New Brunswick and Quebec all the syrups were genuine, but none of them came from Montreal. In Ottawa only one sample of syrup was found to be adulterated and that was guaranteed to be not only "pure but of high grade." That too came from Montreal.

In the matter of maple sugar samples, the geographical fluctuations were also remarkable. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, St. Hyacinthe and Calgary districts, all the samples taken were pronounced genuine. In the district of Montreal all but one were genuine, and that one was pronounced doubtful. In Ottawa three out of four adulterated samples came from Montreal. In Toronto three at least out of the four adulterated samples came from Montreal and probably the fourth. In Windsor all four adulterated samples came from Montreal.

It will be noted that the general practice is for the samples for inspection to be collected during the months of April and May, that is to say just at the time of year when the farmers are placing their new crops of syrup and sugar upon the market. This is the time of year when naturally adulteration is at its lowest level, because the trade is fairly well supplied with pure products. If the collection were made during the fall and winter months when most of the farmers' pack has been consumed, the result would be very different; a very small percentage of pure goods would be found on sale. In illustration and confirmation of this statement we may cite the fact that in 1905 two collections of samples were made by the Inland Revenue Department; one just before, and one just after the crop was harvested. In the first collection only 24.3 per cent. of the samples were found to be genuine. In the second collection made after the new crop had been placed upon the market 63.6 per cent. were found to be genuine.

We cite these figures and institute these comparisons to show that the statistics are absolutely worthless, even for statistical purposes. To collect two samples of maple syrup in a city of over 400,000 people, and attempt to draw any practical inference whatever from their analysis, regarding the purity of the maple syrup supply of the city, is only playing at food inspection.