

LABORATORY
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BULLETIN No. 220

TABLE SALT

OTTAWA, Ont., December 7, 1910.

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

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 273 samples of table salt, collected throughout the Dominion in October last.

The last inspection of this article was made in August, 1906, and is reported in Bulletin No. 128.

We have no legal standard for table salt in Canada. The following definition has been given legal force in the United States, since June, 1906 :—

Table salt, dairy salt, is fine grained crystalline salt, containing, on a water free basis, not more than one and four-tenths (1 $\frac{4}{10}$) per cent calcium sulphate (CaSO_4), nor more than five-tenths (0 $\frac{5}{10}$) per cent of calcium and magnesium chlorides (CaCl_2 and MgCl_2) nor more than one-tenth (0 $\frac{1}{10}$) per cent of matters insoluble in water.

I am of opinion that the above requirements are perfectly reasonable, for a purified salt, such as is suitable for table use. As judged by this standard, 215 samples (or 78 per cent of the collection) are normal. Of the remainder, 39 samples contain an excess of material insoluble in water. This is usually starch, carbonate of lime, or other harmless matter, evidently introduced to render the salt less hygroscopic—in other words, to prevent it from caking in use. This is probably an improvement, and is covered by Sec. 24, (a) which provides :—

Where any matter or ingredient not injurious to health has been added to the food or drug, in case such matter or ingredient is required for the production or preparation thereof as an article of commerce in a state fit for carriage or consumption, if the same has not been fraudulently added to such food or drug for the purpose of increasing the bulk, weight or measure thereof, or to conceal its inferior quality, and each package, roll, parcel or vessel containing every such article of food or drug manufactured, sold or exposed for sale is distinctly labelled as a mixture in conspicuous characters forming an inseparable part of a general label thereon bearing the name and address of the manufacturer.

In order that the manufacturer may have the protection afforded by this Section, it will be noted that the article must be marked and labelled as a mixture. In the absence of any legal standard, fixing the point at which matters other than chloride of sodium must be considered as *added* material, I have refrained, in this report, from describing any samples as being adulterated.

It is hoped that before another collection of table salt is made, we shall have a standard for this article; in which case the failure to state additions of foreign matter to salt will necessarily constitute adulteration under the Act.

I beg to recommend the publication of this report as Bulletin No. 220.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.