

LABORATORY  
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GROUND CINNAMON AND CASSIA.

OTTAWA, March 5, 1911

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Acting Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to submit to you herewith a report upon 250 samples purchased throughout Canada in September and October of last year, as Cinnamon and Cassia. One hundred and thirty eight (138) samples were sold as Cinnamon and one hundred and twelve (112) as Cassia.

The last inspection of these articles was made in November and December of 1906, and reported as Bulletin No. 138.

The introductory remarks there published may be repeated here, as fully descriptive of what is known regarding Cinnamon and Cassia in commerce.

*Cinnamon* and *Cassia* are the dry barks of trees which belong to the same botanical genus, *Cinnamomum*. Cinnamon is the bark of *C. Zeylanicum*, chiefly grown in Ceylon and the East Indies; Cassia is the bark of *C. Cassia*, chiefly grown in China and India. The former bark is thinner, lighter in colour and exists (commercially) in smaller rolls than Cassia bark. It is sufficiently easy to distinguish the two articles, in the unground state; and there is a considerable difference in price between whole cinnamon and whole cassia. The botanical elements of the two are, however, practically identical; and, in the finely ground state, it becomes a difficult, if not an impossible thing, to discriminate between them. The darker colour of Cassia is almost the only distinctive character that remains.

Whether cassia is inferior to cinnamon for flavouring purposes, in cookery, is an open question. The general impression is that cinnamon is preferable. Its higher price is doubtless due to this preference. At the same time it is certain that much, if not most, of the ground cinnamon of commerce, is really ground cassia.

Several grinders distinctly label their goods with the word *Cassia*; and it is probable that the same spicemen put on the market a higher priced article under the name *Cinnamon*; but of this I have no conclusive proof. It is however quite certain that the spice in question is known to most domestic users as *Cinnamon*; while the term *Cassia* conveys a very vague meaning, or no meaning whatever. Throughout Quebec the article known as *Canelle*, which means cinnamon as distinguished from cassia, to which belongs the term *Cassae*, seldom mentioned except as a drug.

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