

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 312

MOLASSES

OTTAWA, April 15, 1915.

J. V. VINCENT, Esq.,
Deputy Minister Inland Revenue,

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report of work done upon one hundred and forty (140) samples purchased by our inspectors throughout Canada, under the name of Molasses (Melasse).

Molasses has never been defined in Canada under the Adulteration Act; and the present inspection appears to show that the term has no very definite signification for the consuming public. This I infer from the fact that no complaints have been received from consumers, although the character of the article, as evidenced by this report, is extremely variable. The content of total solids varies from above 80 to less than 70 per cent; reducing sugars from 37 to less than 10 per cent; cane sugar from 54 to less than 20 per cent; and ash (mineral matter) from above 9 to less than 1 per cent.

Any complaints which have been received concerning molasses have come from outside sources, and charge that an article not considered fit for human consumption at the place of its production is supplied to the public of Canada. The following statement, made to the Commissioner of Trade and Commerce, by a high authority in Barbados, deserves consideration.

"That 'black strap' molasses is not fit for human food and it seems to me that the Canadian Government should let the people know what they are buying as syrup or molasses. Nearly every civilized country now has its pure food laws and I think the Canadian Government should compel those manufacturers who treat 'black strap' molasses in such a way as to give it the appearance of High Grade syrup to so mark their product that any purchaser will know what he is getting. I am sure that if Canadians in general knew the nature of the 'black strap' molasses they would not think it fit for human food. I understand that even the working classes in Canada insist upon having the highest quality of meat and even the choicest cuts. Why then should they be willing to buy molasses and syrup which at best is fit for nothing but cat-broth? We in Barbados are very careful to prevent inferior molasses being exported as high-grade and we have very strict laws to prevent the mixing of molasses. I may