LABORATORY

OF THE

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 259

MAPLE SYRUP

OTTAWA, June 7, 1913.

WM. HIMSWORTH, Esq.,
Acting Deputy Minister,
Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit herewith a report upon 128 samples sold as maple syrup during the period, December, 1912, to April, 1913.

Of this number 86 samples are found to be genuine, in the sense that they meet standards for the article as legalized by Order in Council of October 27, 1911 (G. 994).

One sample was lost through breakage in transit (50515) and one sample was purchased by mistake (37102). This sample was plainly labelled as 'Compound,' and should not have been accepted by our inspector.

Three samples are judged as doubtful: the analytical numbers nearly meet legal requirements; but their character considered in relation to each other, is such as to justify doubt of genuineness.

Thirty-seven (37) samples are adulterated, as failing to meet legal requirements for maple syrup.

In several cases vendors have acknowledged that they sold artificial maple syrup, claiming unintentional oversight.

In many other instances the vendor claims to have acted in good faith, believing the article offered to be genuine maple syrup, having been purchased by him as such. Careful examination of the label, or of the form of warranty furnished by the manufacturer would have led him to see his mistake: and yet one cannot but surmise that, in some cases, the careful wording of these labels or guarantees, shows a desire on the part of the manufacturer to conceal the real nature of his goods.

While it is conceded that a mixture of maple syrup with cane sugar syrup may be a very desirable and entirely wholesome article, it is due to the producer of the genuine article that we require all mixtures of maple syrup with cane sugar syrup, or other wholesome diluent, to be plainly labelled in such a way that the purchaser shall be made fully aware of the nature of the article supplied to him.

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 259.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
A. McGILL,
Chief Analyst.