LABOR TORY

OF THE

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 270

TABLE SALT

OTTAWA, November 10, 1913.

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

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 139 samples of table salt, collected by our inspectors during January and February of this year.

None of the samples can be regarded as in any way objectionable, still less as harmful, for the purposes of table salt.

At the same time, they vary in quality through a considerable range, as regards their freedom from other substances than chloride of sodium, which may be regarded as the essential and characteristic constituent of salt.

I think it not unreasonable to require that a purified salt, for table use, should be practically free from other chlorides than sodium chloride; and should contain sulphates in amount less than corresponding to 0·75 per cent of sulphuric acid (SO_3).

The only sulphate usually present in salt is calcium sulphate; and 0·75 per cent SO_3 corresponds to about 1·28 per cent of calcium sulphate.

On this basis, 24 samples contain somewhat higher sulphates than should be found in refined salt.

Thirty samples show excessive amounts (above 0·1 per cent) of insoluble matter. In all cases this is of harmless character; and appears to be purposely added in order to reduce the hygroscopicity of the salt, and thus to prevent caking. As I pointed out in Bulletin No. 220, the fact of such addition should be noted on the label.

Owing to press of other work, it has not yet been found possible to fix standards for this article. This will be done as soon as practicable.

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 270.

I have the honour to be, sir,
your obedient servant.

A. McGILL,
Chief Analyst.

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