

Correspondence.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

DEAR SIR,—I should like to see you draw the attention of the public, as well as that of the authorities of the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa, to something that, without some good explanation can be made, looks very much like a serious defect in the laws as applied to the adulteration of food. I refer especially to the publication in the Government Blue Books of the names of the persons who are found selling any adulterated goods at retail, without any reference whatever to the names of the parties who manufacture the fraudulent stuff. Surely it is quite as important to the general body of consumers to learn the names of those who are first of all responsible for the manufacture and sale of the goods by wholesale, as to get the names of the retailers, who may and probably have no knowledge whatever that the goods are not perfectly pure, and what the labels on the packages represent them to be.

Turning over the pages of the Auditor General's report for last year, I was somewhat surprised to see the name of a local grocer figuring on the list of those who had been fined or charged with costs, when as a matter of fact the amount that appeared against his name had been paid by the parties who manufactured and sold the stuff in a neighboring city. I am constrained to make these remarks because the transaction came under my personal knowledge and the names of all connected with it are known to me. When goods are taken out of a store by an inspector of the Inland Revenue Department and sent to Ottawa for analysis, does the matter end when a certificate is sent to the retailer stating that the goods are adulterated, and to what extent, and enclosing a bill for the fees charged for the analysis? Is no effort made by the authorities to follow up the matter, and having discovered who the guilty manufacturer is, put the law in operation against him? If not, whose duty is it to take action in such cases? If the intention of the law is to protect an innocent purchaser, it would

appear that a defect exists somewhere, or the law should be amended in such a way that the manufacturer in all cases should be, when detected by the department, treated as a criminal, and sent to prison without the option of a fine, and full publicity given to the facts. Otherwise the law as now administered is a perfect farce, and no use whatever as a protection to the public against frauds of this kind. The same remarks would apply to the makers of adulterated liquors when found in the country. I trust you may consider the subject of sufficient interest to refer to in the columns of your paper.

Yours truly,

SUBSCRIBER.

Annapolis, N.S., 13th Sept., 1894.

—Windsor merchants say that the business outlook is improving in their town.

—The Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company are considering, it is said, the advisability of adding two new steamers to their fleet.

—The new steamer to be built for the Great Northern Transit Company during the coming winter will be 220 feet in length, 35 feet in beam and 12 feet clear in hold.

—At a special meeting of the Fire and Water Committee of the Hull Council on Saturday morning it was decided to recommend an expenditure of \$30,000 in an extension of the water works system.

—The Marine Department has received a telegram from the British Columbia Sealers' Association, stating that they would be willing to receive from the United States Government the \$425,000 offered as compensation, under the Paris award, for illegal seizures of sealers in Behring Sea by United States cruisers.

THE AUGUST FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of August, as estimated from our daily files, aggregates \$10,432,800, which is a

gratifyingly smaller sum than the total for August, 1893. The following comparative table of losses by months demonstrates the improvement of the present year's record over that of 1893:—

	1892.	1893.	1894.
January..	\$12,564,900	\$17,958,400	\$10,568,400
February	11,914,000	9,919,900	11,297,600
March ..	10,648,000	16,662,350	9,147,100
April ..	11,559,800	14,669,900	11,540,000
May	9,485,000	10,427,100	10,777,800
June	9,265,550	16,344,950	8,282,300
July	11,530,000	12,118,700	16,307,000
August..	10,145,300	13,222,700	10,432,800

Total.. \$87,112,550 \$111,324,000 \$87,453,000

There were 204 fires in August of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000 each, and in another column a list of these in detail appears. They may be classified as below:—

\$10,000 to \$20,000	81
20,000 to 30,000	31
30,000 to 50,000	32
50,000 to 75,000	27
75,000 to 100,000	11
100,000 to 200,000	16
200,000 to 450,000	6

Total..... 204

The following August fires are specially notable:

Marion, Iowa, business portion of town.	\$153,000
La Moure, N.D., various.....	200,000
Chicago, Ill., lumber yards and factories.....	450,000

The Canadian Homestead Loan and Savings Association.

The Shareholders of the above Association are hereby notified that the Ninth Annual Meeting for the presentation of the financial statements, the election of directors, amendments to the rules and by-laws and other purposes, will be held at the office of the association, 72 King Street East, Toronto, on **Tuesday, October 2nd, 1894, at 7.30 p.m.**

By order.

A. J. PATTISON, Secretary.

Toronto, Sept. 4th, 1894.

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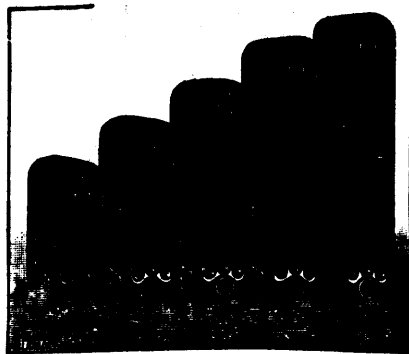


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