

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 261

TONIC WINES

OTTAWA, June 24, 1913.

WM. HIMSWORTH, Esq.,

Acting Deputy Minister, Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to advise you that on June 15, 1910, the Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue suggested the inspection of medicated wines, as sold in Canada. (See L. 71528). This was consequent upon information received to the effect that certain of these wines contained cocaine without acknowledgment of the fact.

A collection of such wines was ordered September 1, 1910; and analysis of the samples was completed. A report of results was on my desk at the time of the burning of our laboratories, January 4, 1911—and was destroyed. Among the salvage we later discovered portions of the books in which the analyst who did the work had entered his first-hand notes. From these it has been found possible to recover sufficient analytical data to justify publication. This forms Part I of the present report.

On August 26, 1912, you advised collection of a further supply (See L. 95872, F. 99147), and in consequence of this, instructions to collect were issued in December of last year. The results of work upon this collection constitute Part II. of this report.

It will be easily understood that the amount of work required in this is very great; and where our inspectors in different districts have sent in samples of the same brand of wine, I have not considered it justifiable in view of the large amount of labour needed in other classes of foods and drugs, to submit every sample to analysis. Thus, there have been sent in ten samples of the wine known at St. Michel in the collection of 1910; and one sample in the collection of this year. Of these eleven samples, four only have been examined and reported.

The information herein given will be of use to physicians, and to those who use medicated wines. It would be invidious to make comparison among these articles, which are mostly, if not in every case, proprietary. It is sufficient to say, that nothing is found in any of them which need be harmful to the health of the consumer who uses them intelligently.

Cocaine is not permitted to be present in medicated wines, or in any patent medicine, since the Proprietary or Patent Medicines Act came into force (April 1, 1909). No cocaine has been found in samples reported in Part II.

Part I. comprises 58 samples representing 29 different brands.

Part II. comprises 40 samples representing, apparently, 38 different brands.

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 261.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. MCGILL,

Chief Analyst.