

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 127

ROLLED OATS AND OATMEAL

OTTAWA, October 6, 1906.

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Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—In the month of April last representations were made to this branch to the effect that flaked and rolled oats were being manufactured and sold in Ontario of very inferior quality. The samples submitted contained an excessive proportion of the exterior tissues of the grain besides foreign substances. I then recommended that an inspection be made of oatmeal and similar products as soon as the work of the Laboratory would permit. Subsequently, and as authorized by you, a collection was made of such samples, the origin of which and the results of their examination are given in the table which accompanies this report. In this table the microscopical examination and percentage of crude fibre are stated, these determinations being all that were necessary for the purpose in view. Only in one case, No. 27655, was any foreign starch detected, and as regards crude fibre the percentage varied from 0.80 to 3.35 per cent. The latter amount must be pronounced as excessive, if reference is made to the analyses of both European and American oatmeals which are on record. It is exceedingly seldom that these show higher than 2 per cent crude fibre, and in my opinion, that amount might fairly be assumed as the highest allowable limit. Among the 155 samples examined, 64 show higher amounts of crude fibre than 2 per cent, and this would seem to indicate that with regard to 41.3 per cent of the oatmeal samples now offered for sale in the Dominion the quality might be improved. At the same time none of the samples were found to contain the large amount of oat hulls originally complained of, and in the absence of any standard, it is impossible to characterize any of the samples as adulterated.

Besides making the determinations of the table some of the samples were analysed in order to obtain a general idea of their composition. The results are given in the following statement and include the alcohol and water extractives which were determined in order to an approximative estimation of the starch by difference. In obtaining the results of both tables the following assistant analysts were more or less engaged:—Misses S. E. Wright and E. Davidson, Messrs. A. Lemoine and A. Valin.