

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

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White Lead in Oil as Sold in Small Packages

OTTAWA, January 30, 1915.

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Deputy Minister Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 104 samples purchased throughout Canada by our inspectors as *White Lead, Ground in Oil*. This collection was made in May and June of last year, and was consequent upon repeated complaints having been made to this department that substitutes for White Lead were widely offered for sale under names which did not correctly describe them, or give the purchaser to understand that he was buying another article than White Lead. Most of the samples now reported were purchased in one-pound tins, this being the usual mode of sale of the article as complained of.

Many of the substitutes for an article which, like white lead, is employed for many different purposes, cannot be condemned, except where fraud or deception are in evidence. The chief use to which white lead is put, is as a paint material; but subsidiary uses are as a lute in joining pipes; as a whitener in putty; as a filler preparatory to painting; as a lubricant and fixative in dowelling, etc. It would appear, from evidence which has been furnished to me, that it has become customary to regard the article when put up in one and two-pound tins, as intended for these subsidiary uses. White lead, intended for use as a paint material proper is seldom purchased in smaller quantities than ten pounds, and it has come to be accepted that the small package is intended to subserve a purpose for which a cheaper material may be even better suited. The name "White Lead" is retained, not for purposes of deception, but from established custom, and the change in character of the article, has been a gradual one, proceeding from a small substitution of other substances for carbonate of lead, to the total replacement of lead by sulphide of zinc, barytes, and other material.

Growing out of recognition of the facts, as stated, it has become customary to distinguish between *White Lead* and *Pure, or Genuine White Lead*; a distinction entirely at variance with the fundamental principle of the Adulteration Act, which requires that every article shall be true to name, unless specifically labelled to show that it is a compound, mixture or substitute.