

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 281

BUTTER

OTTAWA, March 17, 1914.

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

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report upon 340 samples of butter collected throughout Canada by our inspectors during the months of November and December of 1913 and January of this year. To this is added as an appendix a report of 26 samples collected in March 1913, in the district of Quebec, for the special purpose of ascertaining whether oleo-margarine was being offered in these markets, as was asserted by some parties who claimed to knowledge in the matter. It was under the especial guidance of these parties that the market was examined; and it is satisfactory to find that all samples obtained were found to be genuine.

Butter is legally defined, by Order in Council of 3rd November 1910, as the clean, non-rancid product made by gathering, in any manner the fat of fresh or ripened milk or cream into a mass, which also contains a small portion of the other milk constituents with or without salt, and contains not less than eighty-two and five tenths (82·5) per cent milk fat, and not more than (16) sixteen per cent of water. Butter may also contain added colour, provided it is of a harmless character.

The sum of minimum fat and maximum legal water in butter is 98·5 per cent of its weight; whereas it appears that in a butter containing a maximum amount of permissible water, the salt, curd, lactose, albumens and other milk constituents, traces of which are always present in butter, are in the aggregate amount limited to one and one half (1·5) per cent. If it be desired to introduce more than about one per cent of salt into butter, this must be done by cutting down the water content; and as a matter of fact, it is rare to find 16 per cent of water in butter. Only five samples of the present collection exhibit more than 16 per cent of water, namely:—

Samples No.	Water p.c.	Fat p.c.	Salt p.c.
56192.....	16·75	78·69	4·56
59291.....	16·44	83·47	0·09
53247.....	20·28	76·68	3·04
53250.....	16·48	80·84	2·78
51821.....	16·94	81·47	1·59