

LABORATORY  
OF THE  
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT  
OTTAWA, CANADA

BULLETIN No. 298

Milk from Towns and Villages.

OTTAWA November 25, 1914.

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Deputy Minister Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I beg to hand you a report dealing with fifty-nine (59) samples of milk, obtained by our inspectors in various towns and villages as locally delivered.

Most of the cities and larger towns of Canada make provision for examination of their own milk supply. This is as it should be, because it is impossible that efficient control of an article so extensively in use, and so liable to change in character dependent upon local causes, could be effectively carried out in any other way. This consideration will also explain why we have not since September, 1907, (See Bulletin No. 142), issued any extended report upon milk.

Standards for legal milk are fixed by an Order in Council dated 3rd November, 1910 (Published as Circular G. 934), and are as follows:—

“Milk, unless otherwise specified, is the fresh, clean and unaltered product obtained by the complete, uninterrupted milking, under proper sanitary conditions, of one or more cows, properly fed and kept, excluding that obtained within two weeks before, and one week after calving, and contains not less than three and one-quarter (3.25) per cent of milk fat, and not less than eight and one-half (8.50) per cent of milk solids, other than fat.”

This definition, as I understand it, is not intended to interfere with, much less to prohibit, the fixing of local standards by any municipality which desires to do this.

There are many parts of Canada in which it should be possible to secure milk of better quality as to fat, and non-fat solids content, than the above quoted standard demands; and, on the other hand, a milk containing less than 3.25 per cent fat, and less than 8.50 per cent non-fat solids may be legally sold, provided that the vendor makes specific claim in accordance with the facts, and that the purchaser consents to the transaction on these terms.

Where, however, no regulations are in force under municipal enactment, the standard fixed by Order in Council, under the Adulteration Act, must govern.

Complaints have been received from time to time, to the effect that the smaller towns and villages of Canada, in which no local inspection, is provided, are supplied with milk of inferior quality, and this department has been asked to look into the matter. Hence the present report.