

LABORATORY
OF THE
INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

OTTAWA, CANADA.

BULLETIN No. 294

OLIVE OIL AND SALAD OIL

OTTAWA, October 13, 1914.

J. U. VINCENT, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR—I beg to hand you a report upon 114 samples of Edible Oil, sold as Salad Oil or as Olive Oil, to our inspectors during the past summer.

An Order in Council, dated March 28, 1912, defines Olive Oil and Cotton Seed Oil, as these articles are sold for food purposes. There is no question of the wholesomeness of Cotton Seed Oil, properly refined, and it may be sold either by itself or in a mixture with Olive Oil, provided that the label plainly declares its presence.

The substitution of Cotton Seed Oil for Olive Oil without declaration, constitutes adulteration under Section 2 (b) of the Act, which states as follows: "Food shall be deemed to be adulterated within the meaning of this Act, if any inferior or cheaper substance has been substituted wholly or in part for the article."

The experience of our inspectors shows that Olive Oil is coming more and more into use in Canada, and the purchaser of a Salad Oil usually understands that he is buying Olive Oil. I am informed that the trade recognizes the terms *Salad Oil* and *Union Salad Oil* as distinguishing between Olive Oil and Cotton Seed Oil. It is probable that the word *Union* has regard to the United States as a source of the article, rather than to a mixture of oils, since the Southern United States is the chief producer of Cotton products. It is usual for Olive Oil to be labelled in French or Italian, since France and Italy are among the chief producers of Olive Oil, and appear to furnish most of that supplied to Canada. Recognizing these facts it gives cause for suspicion when we find Cotton Seed Oil carrying French labels and purporting to have a French origin. Not only does it suggest purposeful deception, but it makes us suspicious that the name of the manufacturer may be wholly fictitious. I think it not unreasonable that we should be in a position to require wholesale dealers to prove the *bond fide* character of information stated or implied on labels of the kind referred to, i.e., where