

product much less desirable as a food than formerly; and, if sold for human food at all, it should certainly be known by a specific and truly distinguishing name. The word *molasses* is evidently understood to stand for a perfectly edible article, and should therefore be defined in such a way as to exclude *black strap*. This may be most easily done by requiring that molasses shall contain not less than a fixed minimum amount of sugar, and not more than a fixed maximum amount of ash. Also that it shall be entirely free from metallic impurities, and shall not contain dangerous amounts of sulphurous acid, or other foreign matter.

The standards for molasses recommended by the Washington authorities, are as follow:

"Molasses is the product left after separating the sugars from massecuite, melada, mush sugar or concrete, and contains not more than twenty-five (25) per cent of water, and not more than five (5) per cent of ash."

These standards are satisfactory so far as I am concerned, but I think that they might be made still more definite, to advantage. The present report will serve the purpose of giving information in regard to molasses, as found in the markets of Canada; and will supply a basis for further consideration of the matter, with a view to recommending satisfactory standards.

Of the 140 samples reported, 75 contain less than 40 per cent of cane sugar (sucrose), and should, I think, on this account, be considered as doubtfully suited for human food under the name molasses; 38 samples contain more than 5 per cent of ash, and would undoubtedly be more correctly offered as *black-strap* than as molasses. These decisions can only be regarded as conditional, until such time as legal standards are established.

I beg to recommend publication of this report as Bulletin No. 312.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.