

### NOTE.

Under an Order in Council dated 8th May, 1896, I was instructed to undertake an inquiry into the causes leading to a deterioration in the quality of canned lobsters. This inquiry has lasted for a year and a half and is now concluded. The results are set down herein. It was commenced in conjunction with Dr. A. A. Bruère, at my request to him, and it was conducted jointly with him for a very considerable period. Then Dr. Bruère notified to me his intention to retire from the investigation. I am therefore, left solely responsible for the report in its present form, and am only too sensible of the loss to it of Dr. Bruère's able co-operation in the light of the very material value of his observations whilst he was associated with me. The present occasion is also taken to tender to him the fullest acknowledgment of his aid.

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