

(No. 98)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ANALYSIS OF FOOD AND DRINK BY
GOVERNMENT ANALYST,

JULY, 1891, TO JUNE, 1892.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Dobson.)

Laid upon the Table by the Premier, November 1, 1892; and ordered by the
House of Assembly to be printed, November 2, 1892.



ANALYSIS OF FOOD AND DRINK BY GOVERNMENT ANALYST.

Ordered, That an annual Return of all articles of food and drink furnished for public analysis, and examined in the Government Laboratory, with names of persons and places from whom and whence obtained, with results of analysis where adulteration was detected, be laid upon the Table of this House, the first of such Returns to be for the year ended 30th June, 1891. (*Mr. Dobson.*)

Government Laboratories, Hobart, 17th October, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose herewith the Annual Return for 1891-2, ordered to be furnished to Parliament on the motion of the Hon. H. Dobson, giving numbers of articles of Food and Drugs examined, with names of vendors where adulteration was detected.

With regard to Tea, there is undoubtedly a considerable quantity imported which is weak and inferior, but the supervision exercised prevents the introduction of the very worst varieties, for which this country was formerly the sink.

Milk varies naturally to so great an extent that large allowance, always in the vendor's favour, has to be made. It is probable that in many cases the actual "added water" was at least double the quantity certified. Various examinations of water made for the Central Board of Health further prove the agency of a supply subject to contamination in the spread of disease.

An examination to which I would most particularly direct attention is that of one of the "Essences" examined for Customs purposes. This was a mixture of sundry flavouring materials, and was labelled—

"Ess. Cognac Brandy (Fine Champagne). One pound of this essence is sufficient for 50 gallons of Spirits; it simply requires mixing."

It seems in the highest degree undesirable that anyone should have the power to thus easily convert Spirits of Wine, which might be practically poisonous, into a colourable imitation of brandy, and I would therefore recommend that the importation of this and similar raw material of adulteration should be prohibited. The name of the importer was not given.

I may perhaps here be permitted to draw attention to the fact that this Department is not classed as a self-supporting one. This is due to its being placed at the disposal of all other Departments and Municipal bodies, without receiving even paper credit for the work done. In addition, as has been before pointed out, examinations have been made gratis to a considerable extent for private individuals. Allowing one shilling only for each sample of Tea, and averaging all others at the low rate of one guinea, the value of the work done in 1891 and 1892 would amount to £953 and £991 respectively, not regarding work other than actual examinations of the various substances.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. WARD, A.R.S.M., *Government Analyst.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

RETURN of all Articles of Food and Drink furnished for Public Analysis and examined in the Government Laboratory from 1st July, 1891, to 30th June, 1892, with Names of Persons and Places from whom and whence obtained, and Results of Analyses where Adulteration, &c. was detected.

<i>Substance examined.</i>	<i>No. of Samples.</i>
Tea.....	1446
Milk	113
Spirits and Ale.....	35
Wine and Essences	7
Water	14
Bread and Flour	2
Meat	1
Drugs.....	10
	1628
	1628

RETURN of Cases in which Adulteration was detected.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Substance.</i>	<i>Name of Vendor.</i>	<i>Place of Sale.</i>	<i>Results of Examination.</i>
1891.				
6 July	Milk	J. Miller	Launceston	7 per cent. added water.
16 July	German Sausage	—	Hobart	Putrid throughout.
18 July	Milk	C. Fryett	Launceston	7 per cent. added water.
11 August	Ditto	H. Deeks	Ditto	10 ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	C. Fryett	Ditto	8 ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	7 ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	7 ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	10 ditto.
2 September	Ditto	J. Eastoe	Ditto	20 ditto.
17 October	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	16 ditto.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Cream deficient. Sold as previous day's milk.
Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
1892.				
26 May	Milk	C. Greelatch	Launceston	5 per cent. added water.
Ditto	Ditto	W. Bailey	Ditto	5 ditto.
Ditto	Rum	A. W. Roe	Ditto	32 per cent. under proof.
Ditto	Brandy	Ditto	Ditto	37 ditto.

W. F. WARD, *Government Analyst.*

Government Laboratories, Hobart, 27th October, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to refer to my letter of the 17th instant and the Return enclosed therewith, giving details of examinations of articles of Food and Drugs from July, 1891, to June, 1892. I would now point out that, with the exception of the names of vendors of adulterated substances, the whole of the information contained in this Return would be given in my ordinary Annual Report, and that these names might well be given in an Appendix to such Report, and be published or not as deemed desirable.

I would therefore recommend that this arrangement be suggested to the Honorable H. Dobson, who moved for the Return, as the somewhat unprofitable double review of each year's work, firstly, from January to December, and again from July to the ensuing June, would be thereby avoided.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

W. F. WARD, *Government Analyst.*

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Premier. The first Return for the year ended 30th June, 1891, was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly on the 23rd October, 1891.

ADYE DOUGLAS,
1st November, 1892.