

Food and Drug Act Guards Consumers

In 1877 Canada's worst suspicions about some of the food crossing its store counters were confirmed. Certain low-priced teas, it was revealed, owed their dubious tastiness to dried leaves faced with Prussian blue-not to mention stalk, starch, sand and floor sweepings. Some coffee turned out to be less than pure Brazilian. The roasted wheat, peas, beans and bread crumbs found in it had obviously been added closer to home. As for spices -!

These and other unappetizing discoveries came as the result of a new piece of federal legislation. The 'Act to Impose License Duties on the Compounders of Spirits and to Prevent the Adulteration of Food, Drink and Drugs' had been passed in 1874 but it was three years later before the four analysts appointed to implement it turned in their first annual report. Of the 180 samples of varied food that had been examined, 93 turned out to be adulterated.

Eighty years later the Food and Drug Directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare, developing from those modest beginnings, was examining 30,000 samples annually. Where each of the original analysts, working on a fee basis (not to exceed \$2,000 a year) had been allowed up to \$300 for equipment, millions of dollars had been invested in modern laboratories. There was a large central group in Ottawa and five regional units strategically located across the country.

Adulteration was still a problem but its frequency had been reduced to a point where, even among suspected samples, the frequency was five percent as against the original figure of 52%. Moreover, the modern analyst was working against a set of standards where the early examinations had had no starting point other than whether a product carried a threat to health or to life itself.

It was obvious, of course, from the kinds of adulteration discovered in the early days, that a standard was not imperative to its detection at that time. Today's adulteration is something else again. A pound of butter may be delicious in flavor and present no danger to health but, if it has been diluted with cheaper vegetable fats Food and Drug Directorate is interested. Butter must contain only milk fat. It is the Directorate's task to see that the consumer gets what he is led to believe he is buying.

To do this it is assisted by the fruits of modern science. In the Food Chemistry Section of the Ottawa laboratories is a spectograph which can detect adulteration in very small quantities. In many instances if only an ounce of adulterant existed in thirty tons of an otherwise pure commodity, the spectograph would catch it. Adulteration in lesser quantities would scarcely be profitable!

Today's Food and Drug Act covers a field as broad and intricate as modern living. It establishes standards, regulates packaging, labelling and advertising, controls the sale of remedies for certain designated diseases, specifies drugs to be sold only on prescription.

Its work is directly connected

with the protection of the individual Canadian's health, 'in a very real sense'. Hon. J. Waldo Monteith pointed out recently, 'The Food and Drugs Administration reaches into the kitchen cupboard and medicine chest of every home in Canada'.

While Food and Drug inspectors, located from coast to coast, are the vigilant watchmen of the Act, its ever-increasing effectiveness has been rooted in the co-operation of the Canadian producer and consumer alike. Each has recognized it as an instrument conceived for mutual benefit.

Duck Season Opens On September 15

The open season in Ontario has been announced for ducks, geese, rails, gallinules, woodcock and wilson's snipe. For the northern district, open season will be September 15 to December 15. Bag limits are as follows:

Ducks — (in the aggregate) — 5 per day, 10 in possession, of which not more than one may be a canvasback or a redhead, and not more than two may be wood ducks. Mergansers are not included in the bag or possession limits.

Geese — (in the aggregate) — 5 per day, 10 in possession.

Wilson's snipe — 8 per day, 16 in possession.

Woodcock — 8 per day, 16 in possession.

Bride-elect feted At Bridal Tea

On Thursday August 17, Mrs. Eric E. Smith entertained at a bridal tea for her daughter Sally whose marriage to Mr. Donald Cameron of Deep River took place in the Cobalt United Church on Saturday, August 19.

To receive her guests, Mrs. Smith wore a gown of mauve flowered dacron and a corsage of yellow tea roses.

The bride elect wearing purple nylon chiffon and a corsage of mauve carnations received with her mother.

Glowing mauve candles and sweet peas in shades of mauve, yellow and white centred the tea table with its beautiful linen

cloth, gleaming silver and lovely china. Mrs. C. R. MacMillan, of Kirkland Lake, Mrs. J. Lloyd MacMillan, Mrs. R. W. Latimore aunts of the bride elect and Mrs. H. W. Rowdon poured tea during the afternoon and evening.

Assisting in serving were Mrs. Lloyd McDougall, Mrs. Bruce Lockhart, Mrs. Roy Barnard, Miss Mavis Cameron and Mrs. H. Ogden.

Assisting in the rooms where the trousseau, shower and wedding gifts were displayed were Miss Bev. Richards, Mrs. Bob McDougall, Mrs. Cam Kilby and Mrs. Don Parkhill.

Guests attended from New Liskeard, Haileybury and Cobalt as well as Mrs. E. Cameron and Miss Mavis Cameron of Carlton Place, and Mrs. Bill Cameron of Espanola. Miss Smith has also been entertained at a number of showers and presentation parties.

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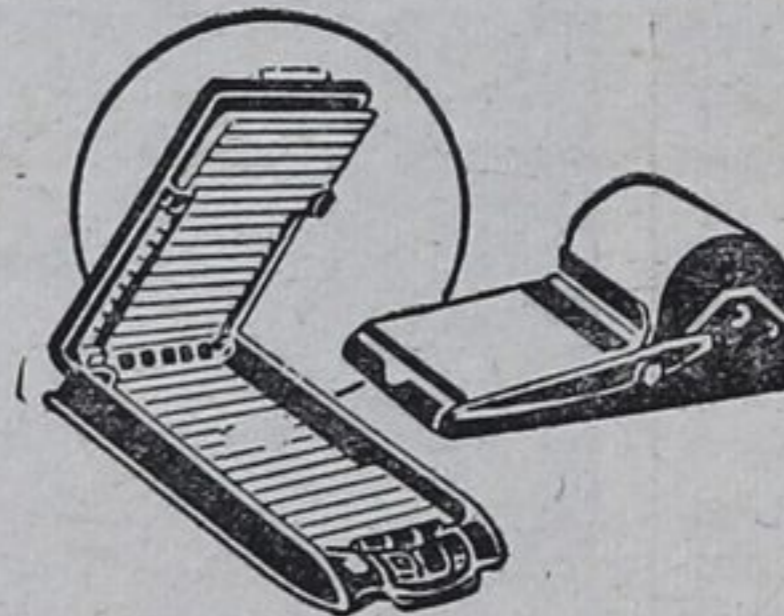
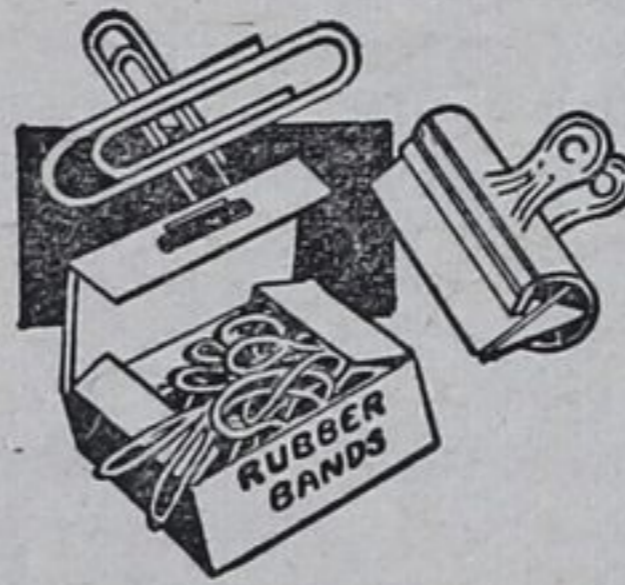
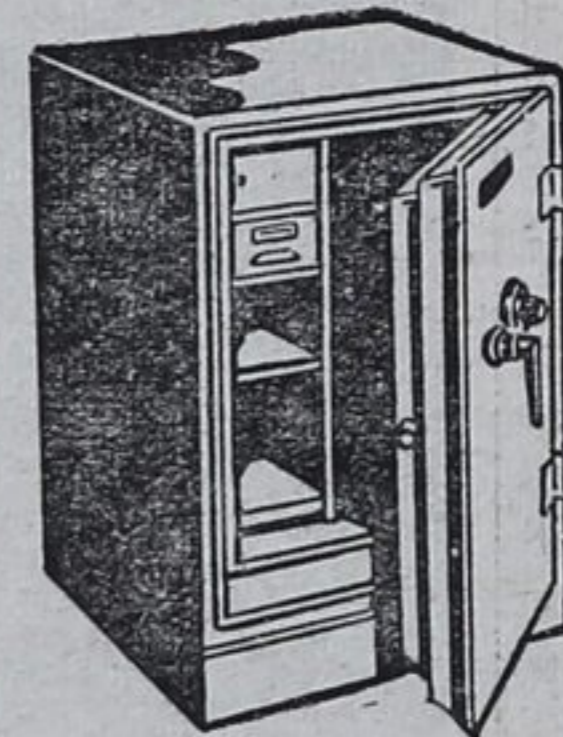
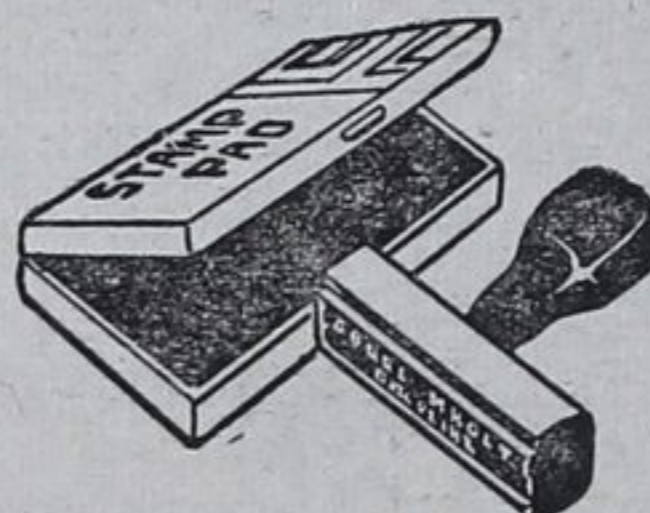
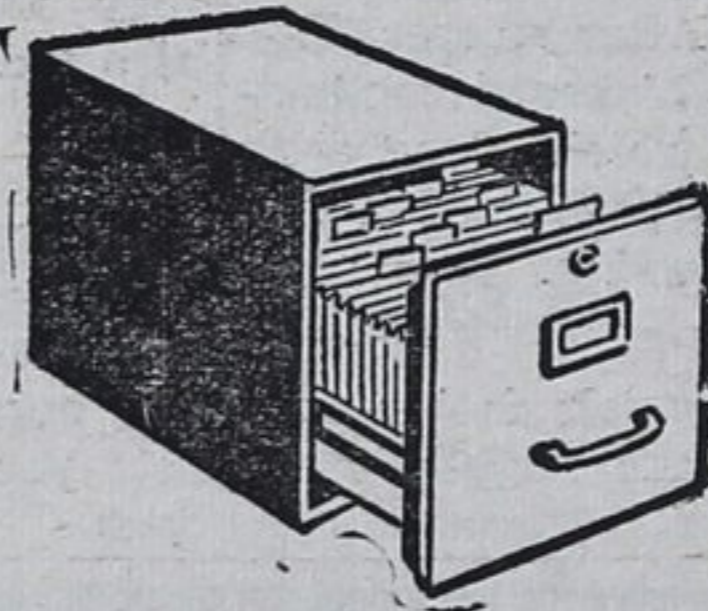
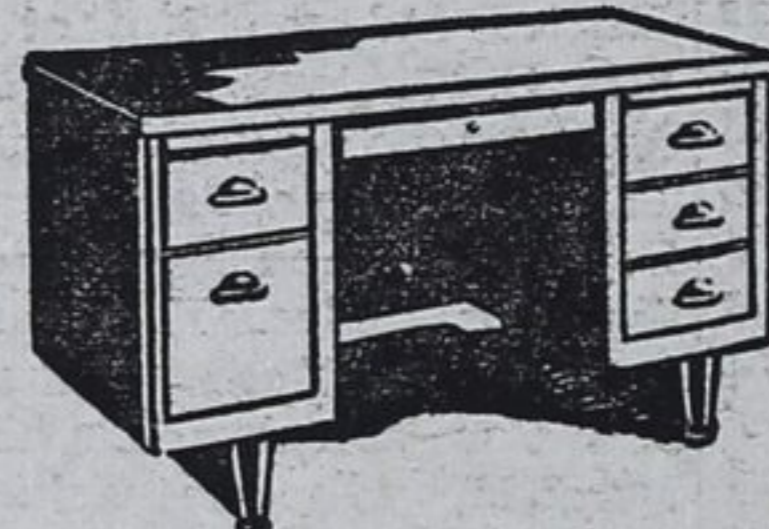
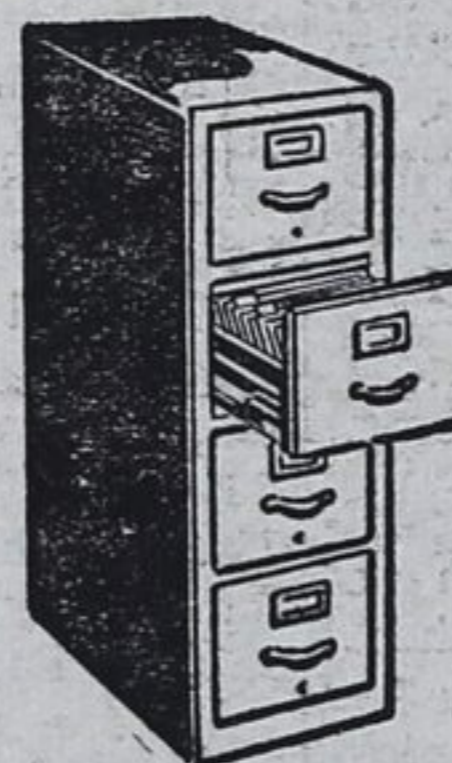
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