

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DAIRY
AND FOOD COMMISSIONER OF
THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,
JULY 1, 1895, TO JUNE 30, 1896**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649329151

Annual Report of the Dairy and Food Commissioner of the State of Michigan, July 1, 1895, to June 30, 1896 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DAIRY
AND FOOD COMMISSIONER OF
THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,
JULY 1, 1895, TO JUNE 30, 1896**



CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

REPORT
OF THE
DAIRY AND FOOD COMMISSIONER

OF THE
STATE OF MICHIGAN

JULY 1, 1895, TO JUNE 30, 1896



BY AUTHORITY

LANSING
ROBERT SMITH PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS
1896

I 6411.5

Sci 1635.18



Michigan State Library



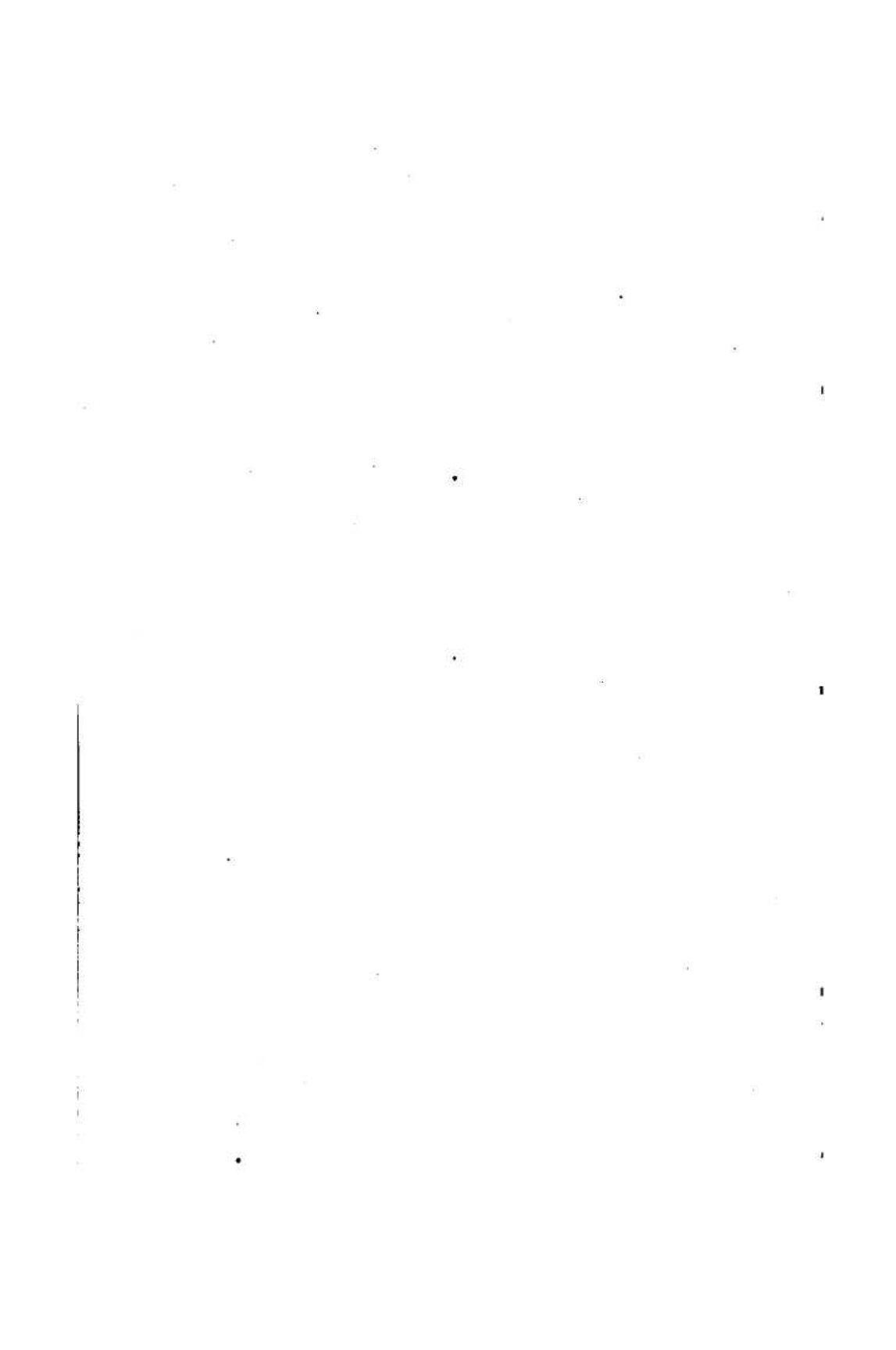
OFFICE OF DAIRY AND FOOD COMMISSIONER, }
Lansing, Michigan, June 30, 1896. }

HON. JOHN T. RICH, *Governor of Michigan:*

DEAR SIR—In compliance with Act No. 193, Public Acts 1895, I have the honor of transmitting to you herewith the report of the work of this office, covering the period from July 1, 1895, to June 30, 1896.

Very respectfully,

C. E. STORRS,
Dairy and Food Commissioner.



REPORT.

The changes made in the food laws of the State at the last session of the Legislature, while not all that were needed, were such as to render the office of Dairy and Food Commissioner of vastly greater benefit to the people of the State than it had been in the past.

They provide for the fitting up and furnishing of a chemical laboratory in connection with the office, for the appointment of a State Analyst who should also be Deputy Commissioner, whose duty it should be to analyze all samples of food products submitted to him by the Commissioner and report to him as to their purity. It provided for not to exceed two clerks and for Inspectors who should examine food products and take samples for analysis. An appropriation of ten thousand dollars was made for carrying out the provisions of the law.

Wm. L. Rossman was appointed State Analyst, John E. Bennett, John I. Breck and Wm. B. Scattergood were appointed Inspectors and later, Samuel F. Cook was given a temporary appointment for work in the upper peninsula. It was believed at the start that the work in the laboratory could not be successfully performed by the State Analyst alone and one of the clerks provided for was selected with regard to his qualifications for an assistant in the chemical work and he has been almost constantly employed in assisting in the work of the laboratory. The work of fitting and furnishing the laboratory was completed the latter part of September and the work of inspection and analysis was at once begun and has been vigorously prosecuted since that time. The lack of knowledge of the provisions of the law among the dealers of the State necessitated the distribution, at the very beginning, of the information necessary to put the trade in position to intelligently meet its requirements. The law would, if it was to be enforced, work radical changes in the character of the food products sold in the State and inevitably entail loss to a certain extent to dealers in those products, and it was only fair that they should have the fullest information it was possible to furnish them. To meet this need, an edition of two thousand five hundred copies of a compilation of the food laws of the State was printed and distributed. The local boards of health, who were given certain powers under it, were furnished copies and the rest have been furnished on application to parties interested. Five thousand copies of Bulletin No. 1, containing a synopsis of the law, were also printed; of which three thousand copies were, at the request of the Michigan Wholesale Grocers' Association, sent to their secretary, H. P. Sanger of Detroit, and by him distributed

to the trade throughout the State. That number proving insufficient, permission was given by the Board of State Auditors, on application to them, for the printing of three thousand additional, most of them being sent to Mr. Sanger and sent out from his office.

The steps taken to secure the passage of the law had aroused the fear among the dealers in food products that it would work irreparable injury to their business and had, as a natural result, led to the formation of opinions opposed to the law and also to its enforcement. It was therefore believed not only the part of wisdom but of justice and in view of the radical changes that must be wrought by its operation, that a course should be adopted in its enforcement that would, with the least hardship to them, put the dealers in possession of all the information possible and at the same time to use such discretion in regard to prosecution as to convince them that while prompt compliance with the provisions of the law would be required, it would if possible, be in such a way as to guard their rights and interests as fully as possible. It was left to them largely to say whether their compliance should be a forced or voluntary one. The result of this action has, it is believed, fully justified the adoption of this course, as a very large amount of stock not legal has been returned to first hands and in almost every case its place has been filled with goods that comply with the law without loss to the dealer, in many instances even when it had been purchased before the law went into effect. Very many manufacturers and jobbers have ordered goods returned of their own motion and have supplied their places with such as could be legally sold. Compliance with the law has in almost every instance been prompt and cheerful. Another effect has been, that instead of the antagonisms that would naturally have been aroused by an indiscriminate resort to coercive measures, a feeling of satisfaction with the law and the effects produced by it, has been the result. While some loss and inconvenience has been suffered, it has been seen to be unavoidable and not the result of a hostile purpose on the part of any one, and today the feeling of nearly all parties concerned is believed to be one favorable to the law. It was natural to expect that unfriendly criticism would follow this action, by those not conversant with the plan adopted and the results following it, but so far as known there has been, but little. In answer to such criticisms, it would seem to be sufficient to say that this law does not differ from the other laws of the State. It was not passed as authority for persecutions but for the correction of evils and while ample authority is given for forcible correction of them, if the use of milder and less costly measures will produce practically the same result, it seems the part of wisdom to use the latter. Every resort to the courts is attended with more or less expense to the people and where the nature of a law makes its purpose more the suppression of an evil than the punishment of a criminal, and that object can be best secured by less expensive measures, it seems only right to follow the course that will entail the least expense.

Another thing to be considered in connection with this matter is that the men engaged in the manufacture and sale of food products in this State as a class are among our best citizens. Generally they are men of influence in the communities where they reside. Competition has in nearly all cases forced them into handling adulterated goods. Certainly it is only simple justice to give them the opportunity to put themselves right in the