

**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE DAIRY AND FOOD
COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE
OF MICHIGAN, FOR THE YEAR
ENDING JUNE 30, 1909**

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Sixteenth Annual Report of the Dairy and Food Commissioner of the State of Michigan, for the Year Ending June 30, 1909 by A. C. Bird

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A. C. BIRD

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OF THE

DAIRY AND FOOD COMMISSIONER

OF THE

STATE OF MICHIGAN

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1909.



BY AUTHORITY

LANSING, MICHIGAN
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1909

MICHIGAN DAIRY AND FOOD DEPARTMENT.

A. C. BIRD, B. S., M. Agr..... Commissioner
COLON C. LILLIE, B. S..... Deputy Commissioner
FLOYD W. ROBISON, B. S..... State Analyst
L. H. VAN WORMER, B. S..... Assistant Chemist
M. J. SMITH Chief Clerk
MISS IDA M. HARRIS Clerk
HENRY W. KIEKINTVELD Clerk
OSMOND C. HOWE Clerk
FRED S. DUNKS Clerk
W. E. ROBISON Clerk
MISS MAYBEL OLIVER Clerk
MISS DOROTHY MOXNESS Clerk
MISS MABEL MOSHER Clerk
N. L. MATTICE Messenger and Clerk
GILMAN M. DAME Regular Inspector
JAMES E. JACKLIN Regular Inspector
CHAS. H. DEAR Regular Inspector
JOSEPH SCHNITZER Regular Inspector
C. J. BIRD Regular Inspector
E. F. MARSCHNER Regular Inspector
F. O. FOSTER Regular Inspector
CLAUDE A. GROVE Regular Inspector
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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

OFFICE OF DAIRY AND FOOD COMMISSIONER,
LANSING, MICHIGAN, JUNE 30, 1909.

To His Excellency, Fred M. Warner, Governor of Michigan:

Sir:—I have the honor to submit my annual report as Dairy and Food Commissioner for the year ending June 30, 1909. The total amount made available by legislative enactment for the maintenance of this department for the period above mentioned, was \$45,030.00. This amount was made up from the following sources: Annual appropriation \$35,000.00; fees collected for registration of creameries, cheese factories, skimming stations and milk depots, \$3,155.00; license fees collected from concentrated commercial feeding stuffs, \$3,000.00; fees collected for milk dealers' licenses, \$1,954.00; fees collected for ice cream manufacturers' licenses, \$1,900.00; test tubes sold, \$21.00.

The above statement shows an increase of \$1,801.85 over the amount available for the maintenance of the department during the previous year. This is practically the same amount represented by the item "Fees collected for ice cream manufacturers' licenses." This amount was expended in the enforcement of the ice cream standard law passed by the legislature of 1909. This law is in conformity with the requirements of the State laws of most of the States. It differs from the national law in the fact that the butter fat requirement under the Michigan standard is 12%, whereas, under the national law the butterfat requirement is 14%. Inspectors reports in the department files show that the passage of this law has resulted in raising the butterfat standard of ice cream in Michigan from an average of 9% to an average of 12.9-10 per cent. Reports from the manufacturers of ice cream further show that the raising of the standard of quality required has increased the volume of business. In other words, the putting into effect of this law has proven decidedly beneficial both to the consuming public and to the producers.

Of the total amount expended under the supervision of this department, \$45,030.00, the records show that \$10,370.00 has been expended in the maintenance of the department laboratory. I took occasion in my report of one year ago, to call attention to the rapid extension of the laboratory work of the department. I then stated that the total salary expenditure for laboratory work in 1905 was \$1,500.00; whereas, for the year ending June 30, 1908, the amount expended for laboratory salaries was \$5,200.00. The extension of the work for the present year is shown from the fact that the increase in salaries, without raising any

individual salary, has been \$1,460.00, making a total for the year of \$6,660.00. Previous to 1905, the statute limited the amount to be expended for laboratory supplies to \$500.00. During the past year the amount expended for laboratory supplies was \$1,719.00. The other expenses classified as laboratory expenses consist of traveling expenses of the laboratory force and that portion of the postage and express account which is properly classed under this head. It is worthy of note that when the amount annually expended by this department was only \$20,000.00; less than 15% was used for laboratory maintenance; whereas now, that the amount annually spent by this department has been increased to \$45,000.00, nearly 25% is used for laboratory maintenance. This exhibit of facts explains more tersely than any other statement I might make, the high standard of scientific excellence attained by the Dairy and Food Department of this State.

During the year just passed, the State was honored through the holding of the annual meeting of the Association of State and National Food Departments at Mackinac Island in August, 1908. The meeting was one of the largest and most successful ever held by that association and did much to increase interest among the people of this State for a higher standard of food products and a more effective administration of food law. During the past year, I had the honor to serve as chairman of the executive committee of this association.

The general features of the Michigan Dairy and Food laws have left little to be desired along the line of new legislation. The last legislature, however, in response to a very general desire that a state drug law should be enacted practically in conformity with the national drug law, placed upon the statute books a most satisfactory measure, establishing requirements uniform with those of the most of the other states and the national government and placing the administration of said law with this department. The appropriation to carry out the purposes of this law was fixed temporarily at \$6,000.00, an amount entirely inadequate to make effective its provisions. The legislature in limiting the appropriation to this amount fully understood its inadequacy, but owing to the financial condition of the State treasury, expressed, through the respective committees of the senate and house, the desire to make at least a beginning in the work. This law does not go into effect until July 1, 1910. At that time, there will be appointed an additional department chemist especially fitted for drug work and two inspectors with special training for the work required of them. The law wisely provides that the inspectors must be graduated pharmacists. While it would be absolutely necessary to ask succeeding legislatures for increased appropriations to properly carry on the work of drug inspection and drug control, it may fairly be presumed that this branch of the department work can be established upon a desirable footing even with a limited appropriation for the first year.

I cannot speak too highly of the work of the dairy division of the department. This work has resulted in the increase of the dairy products in this State by many millions of dollars during the five years that the new law relating thereto has been in effect. To Deputy Commissioner Colon C. Lillie and to State Analyst Floyd W. Robison must be given the credit for the rapid development of the department along dairy lines.

Mr. Lillie is a practical and successful dairyman and because of his practical and successful experience, his connection with this department brought the department immediately into close relations with the general dairy interests of the State. The broad training and splendid equipment of Mr. Robison along practical scientific lines at once opened to him a field of usefulness to the dairymen of the State, which has given to the department a reputation for practical work unexcelled by any State or any country. I cannot speak too highly of the invaluable assistance of these men in building up this department to its present standard of excellence.

To the department force in general and to the Chief Clerk, Mr. M. J. Smith, in particular, I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of their loyal service. From a department in 1905 of from 12 to 14 workers to a department in 1909 of 53 workers is a long stride in advance and made justifiable only by splendid results. It is with no hesitancy that I go on record with the statement that the results have amply justified this growth and with equal confidence I desire to state that such results could never have been attained except through an organization of faithful, willing and effective men and women all working towards one common end. It is to each member of this organization that I here and now record my sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. C. BIRD,
State Dairy and Food Commissioner.

PRESERVATIVES.

Hon. A. C. Bird, State Dairy and Food Commissioner, Lansing, Michigan:

Dear Sir:—You will recall that early in the year 1905, at your request, the writer began a series of studies having for their object the investigation of the possible effect on human beings of a class of substances known as chemical preservatives.

This work was entered into that answer might be made in the courts to the question, "Are chemical preservatives, when used in food products, deleterious to the public health?"

The matter submitted herewith deals with one of those so-called chemical preservatives, namely, the Sodium Salt of Benzoic Acid, otherwise known as Sodium Benzoate, which substance, during the last four years, probably has found the widest distribution in manufactured food products of any of the so-called food preservatives.

If the data submitted herewith meets with your approval, I recommend that it be published as a special bulletin of the Department and be given special distribution among consumers.

I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,
FLOYD W. ROBISON,
State Analyst.