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## ILLINOIS IN THE LEAD

In Enforcement of New Food Law This State Demonstrates Its Progressiveness.

AGREES WITH NATIONAL LAW

Particular Attention Given to Labeling of Food Products and Milk Inspection - Warning Bulletins

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 12.—With the enforcement of its food law, Illinois has taken front rank among the states which have gone in for public inspection of food products. This is demonstrated in a report which has just been made to Governor Deneen regarding the effect of the new statute and changes which he has suggested in the work of the Illinois pure food commission since he resigned governor.

The commission is now acting under authority of a state statute modeled after the national pure food law and this, of itself, is a great aid to the work of the department. In addition decided improvements have been made in the matter of carrying on the detail work of the law, the law being enforced and retitled, and active, capable men have been enlisted to enforce the law and the regulations of the department.

Recognizing the growing importance of the department and its possibilities under the new arrangement, the general assembly has given the commission material assistance in the way of appropriations and the money appears to have been well spent. While some other states have made a great outlay, none has accomplished more in practical way. Illinois has been particularly fortunate in getting the services of high grade chemists and inspectors who have secured recognition for its work throughout the country.

### A Happy Conception.

The plan of making the state legislation dovetail with the national pure food law was a happy conception in more ways than one. It has brought about not only harmony in the enforcement of regulations, but active and profitable co-operation between the federal and state officers. The state pure food department has, since its organization, occupied quarters in the Manhattan building in Chicago, and the United States has established offices and a laboratory on the same floor occupied by the state department.

The headquarters established by the national government are those of the middle division and are in charge of Dr. A. D. Winston, whose duty it is to enforce the national food law in this section of the United States. Arrangements have been made between the state officials and the national officials for co-operation and harmony in the enforcement of the law, and the state thus secures the benefit of Dr. Winston's assistance and experience.

Another scheme of co-operation worked out by the pure food commission takes in the local officials of Chicago and other cities where special officers are employed to enforce pure food regulations. In Chicago the assistance of local inspectors is a very important item, especially in guarding against the manufacture and sale of adulterated foods and with these departments working in unison much can be accomplished which would be impossible otherwise.

### Meat Label Food Products.

More attention is being given to these matters than ever before. Under the new laws—state and national—rules have been made for the labeling of products and for standards of nearly every food product, and manufacturers and vendors who reside outside the state can be reached. Heretofore there was no way of reaching adulterators of food who lived in other states and sent their products across the line into Illinois.

During the two years last past more than 8,000 samples were taken and reported to the office of the state food department. Some of these were taken because they were misbranded or not labeled in conformity with the pure food law. Of the samples analyzed more than 6,500 were found to be pure or to meet the requirements of the law. Fifteen hundred were found to be adulterated or in violation of the state statutes.

Upon the laboratory devoted the work of determining what foods were adulterated or misbranded. It also ascertained the ingredients used in the adulteration of foods, and had the important work of determining whether the substances used were wholesome or injurious to health. Dr. T. J. Bryan is the state analyst and he is reported to have made the laboratory one of the best food laboratories in the country.

The work of the laboratory has been extensive along the various lines of adulteration, especially as to the use of preservatives and coloring matter used in food and dairy products.

### Issue Warning Bulletins.

The deleterious effects of coloring matter and preservatives upon the health has been clearly set forth in the bulletins issued from time to time as these investigations have been made. In this manner the public has been informed as to their harmfulness, as well as by prosecutions instituted against manufacturers and dealers, and the department issued a bulletin in which "standards for purity of food products" was established and requirements were made for their

manufacture and sale as standard of the articles—the standards being based on those adopted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the law modified to accord with Illinois laws, and with local conditions.

The difficulty in the past has been, that there were no legal standards for foods for the human family. There has been a great demand for standards for foods; grocers have needed them in stocking up their stores, manufacturers and manufacturing chemists have desired them in making trade preparations; lawmakers could have employed them to great advantage in formulating legislation.

### Watch the Milk Supply.

During the past two years considerable attention has been paid to the milk supply of the large cities, and especially in the city of Chicago. This work was started primarily because of the milk dealers and packers were using preservatives, such as formaldehyde. The samples taken in numerous instances resulted in the finding of this preservative, the condition of some of the milk and cream was such as called for numerous prosecutions for violation of the law in regard to preservatives.

The enforcement of the butter law enacted to regulate the manufacture and sale of substitutes for butter and to prevent fraud in the brand and sale of "process or renovated butter," has received considerable attention at the hands of the department, and a great improvement has been discovered in the manufacture and sale of "renovated" and "process or renovated butter."

H. E. Schuknecht, the new assistant food commissioner, who has extensive experience in the dairy industries, has changed the manner of inspecting the creameries and dairies of the state and the inspectors, who now have charge of inspecting the dairy products, are experts. The work carried on has been very satisfactory and quite generally educational. A great many prosecutions have been very successful brought against the adulterators of the various grades of dairy products for selling imitation food and dairy products.

### Regulates Interstate Foods.

A report to the governor makes the following comment regarding the enforcement of the food law:

"For the first time in the history of the country we have laws, national and state, which will control the manufacture and sale of foods, not only within the state but also in all other parts of the country. Heretofore our state has been flooded with cheap foods that come pouring over the border lines of the state, and could not be controlled for want of proper legislation, or laws, to control the same. From this time on it will be different, as under our new state food law, which provides for co-operation with the national food authorities, we can secure a regulation of the traffic coming from other states as well as within the state.

"We now have uniform laws, national and state, regulating not only the manufacture and sale of the various food products, but also, providing for a commission to fix standards and rules, as to the proper labeling of all food products.

"The great trouble has been heretofore, in trying to enforce the food laws of the different states—we had no uniformity of laws or unity of action; each state had its own law as to how foods should be prepared and labeled so as to conform to their laws without any regard to uniformity, and consequently the manufacturers and packers of foods have had to keep a different set of labels for each state and prepare their foods in conformity with these requirements.

"Under this new national food law, each state can pass a food law, modeled along the line of the national food law, and have rulings and standards and conforming and harmony with it, and substantially one set of labels and standards will suffice for every state and territory in the Union.

"Illinois has kept up with the procession of states, and is one of the first to take advantage of these conditions. Indiana, on the eastern border, has already passed a state food law, modeled along the lines of the national food law. Kentucky, on the western border, is falling in line, and it will be but a short time until every state in the Union will have laws in conformity with the national food law, and as a result there will be complete accord and harmony, not only in the laws, national and state, but in their enforcement as well.

"The Illinois food department is better equipped than ever before for carrying on the work, as it not only has a splendid state food law, but has more inspectors and chemists and more money appropriated for carrying on the work."

### Other Work of Commission.

"When it is remembered that Illinois has 10,000 retail grocers, 4,000 manufacturers and packers of food; 300,000 dairies, 700 creameries, and 100 milk condensaries, not taking into consideration booties, depots, stations and buffets and dining cars, and that it is the first state in the union in the production, manufacture and sale of all this vast food product; and when we further remember that Illinois, on account of its fertile soil and salubrious climate, its broad prairies and fertile valleys—it being located almost centrally between the two great oceans—and peculiarly adapted to the growth and production of the very best—the most wholesome food products pertaining to the temperate zone—and Chicago being the distributing point of all these vast food products, we can then see and understand how necessary it is that Illinois should have a first-class food and dairy law and have the law rigidly enforced so as to regulate and control the manufacture and sale of these vast food products.

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