

Extract from Province.
February 25th, 1913.

BUTTER PROSECUTIONS.

Although Mr. S.S. Taylor before Magistrate Shaw yesterday afternoon made a strenuous effort to have the "butter-watering" charges, laid several days ago against two wholesale firms dismissed, the charges are still pending in the Police Court.

The only evidence taken yesterday was given by City Analyst John F.C.B. Vance, and by Mr. R. H. Cook, clerk in Richards grocery store the place where the sample of butter analyzed by Mr. Vance, was obtained. Mr. Vance briefly stated that he had examined the butter submitted to him by Dominion Food Inspector Clark, and had found over 22 per cent. of water.

Mr. S.S. Taylor, who appeared for the accused wholesalers, was not prepared to let it go at that, and he put the witness through a most rigid cross-examination, calling on him to explain each detail of the analysis, the precautions taken to secure accuracy, the means of testing the weighing scales, and every step in the whole transaction until the final figures indicating the amount of water were evolved.

Magistrate Shaw refused to dismiss the case. From the evidence submitted, he said it was quite apparent that there was some butter being sold in the city that contained about seven per cent more water than allowed by law. He stated that the matter certainly was one that deserved investigation, and suggested that samples of butter be taken at different stores and wholesale houses in the city, to see if the condition were general.

Mr. Taylor consented to this move, and all parties agreed on a committee consisting of Dominion Food Inspector Clark, Mr. A.P. Slade, and City Analyst J.F.C.B. Vance, to collect the samples. They will collect three samples of each brand of butter sold in the city, one in the wholesale house and the other two in different grocery stores. Mr. Taylor insisted that after the samples had been analyzed by Mr. Vance, they should be sent to Victoria and analyzed again, so that there could be no possible doubt as to the exactness of the double independent analyses. This course was agreed upon.

The case was adjourned for a week but if all agreed upon can not be accomplished by that time, a further adjournment will be granted.

Note.

Conviction Recorded.