REPORT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER.

To the Hon. H. C. Adams, Dairy and Food Commissioner of the State of Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:—I herewith present my report as assistant dairy and food commissioner for the year beginning at the date of my appointment, December 1st, 1899, and ending September 30th, 1900.

The greater part of my time has been devoted to securing samples of milk and oleomargarine. These samples have been obtained from nearly every county in the state. It has necessitated traveling over 27,000 miles by rail and over 2,000 by team.

Of milk I obtained a little over 2,000 different samples, which were found above standard, with the exception of a very few cases, who were complained against for adulteration, and all but two of them plead guilty and paid the fine and costs.

I found a few cases where oleomargarine was being sold contrary to the statute, and in very few instances the parties, upon being complained against, plead guilty and paid the fine and costs.

In nearly every instance I found the cheese factories and creameries in excellent condition as regards cleanliness and equipment. The exceptions in the matter of cleanliness arose partly from poor buildings, and partly from the location where the factories were placed, being on low ground, where the whey settled and accumulated about the premises.

In many sections of the state I found factories so closely grouped that a strong competition arose, often to the injury of all parties concerned. This condition would suggest that there is sufficient room for factories in the northern portion of the state, which promises to be an excellent dairy country.
At an estimate, based upon my visits during the year, I would say that not more than ten per cent. of the factories are paying their patrons by the Babcock test. There is need of improvement in this matter, which can best come from the patrons themselves. It does not seem just that the patron with three per cent. milk receive as much for the same as one with five per cent. milk.

I found a number of cities wherein milk inspectors are appointed by the city, who apply the Babcock test sometimes weekly, and sometimes once a month. And I have noticed that the milk in these cities is better in quality than the milk in cities wherein no such officials are appointed. It would seem a feasible and practical plan for other cities to follow.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. W. Sweeting,
Assistant Dairy and Food Commissioner.