

A NOTE ON THE PACKING OF FORWARD SAMPLES OF TEA

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The despatch of forward tea samples to London has raised many problems with regard to packing. Quite recently complaints appeared in the Ceylon Press of tainting of such samples due to the disinfection of mail bags. However much care is taken by the postal authorities, samples are still liable to pick up taints if the packages are not completely taintproof, and it is quite obvious that the only reasonable line of action in this matter is to use such packages.

Special tins similar to those in which cigarettes are packed for sale in tropical countries have proved satisfactory, but they have several disadvantages. They are not so easily available as ordinary sample tins and they require careful soldering by a fairly expert manipulator; otherwise there is danger of taints arising during soldering through passage of fumes into the tin and of excessive heating of the contents due to clumsiness or carelessness.

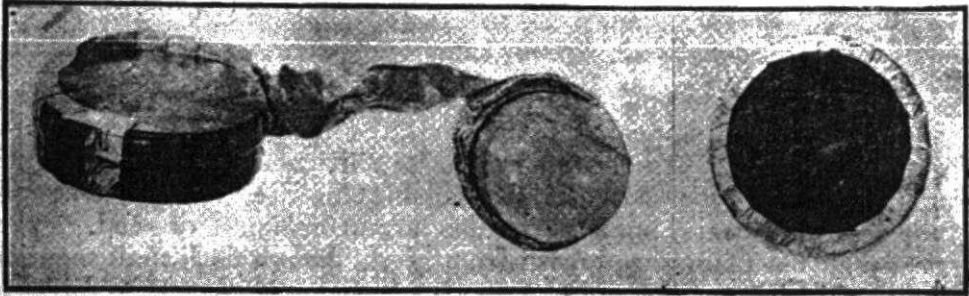


Fig. 1

An adhesive aluminium tape, known as Aglum Tape, which has recently appeared on the market in Ceylon enables completely taintproof packages to be made from ordinary sample tins of any size and can be affixed in a few seconds without any special preparation. The tape, which is sold in rolls like sticking plaster, is smoothed on to the perimeter of the firmly closed sample tin, and an overlap of a quarter-of-an-inch or so is allowed to complete the seal. As the tape is usually supplied in a width of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches it allows of an overlap of about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch on the top and bottom of a one-ounce sample tin which affords an additional safeguard. (See Fig. 1).

Sample tins sealed in this manner have preserved their contents in a fresh condition when enclosed in a space with crude disinfectant or with sliced garlic and onions for a period of one month. Reports received from London on this method of packing have been favourable and the Institute proposes sending future experimental teas in such packages.

When new sample tins are to be used it is advisable to fill them with waste-tea and leave them a day or so before filling with a sample. This device removes "tinny" taints which are liable to occur in samples packed in brand new tins.

The adhesive tape described in this note may be obtained from Messrs. Mackwoods Ltd., Colombo.
