

United States Department of Agriculture,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT NO. 2378.

(Given pursuant to section 4 of the Food and Drugs Act.)

ADULTERATION AND MISBRANDING OF ESSENCE OF JAMAICA GINGER.

At a stated term of the District Court of the United States for the Northern District of California, begun and holden at San Francisco on the first Monday in March, 1912, the grand jurors of the United States within and for said district, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, returned an indictment against the Crown Distilleries Co., a corporation, of San Francisco, Cal., charging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on August 20, 1910, from the State of California into the Territory of Alaska of a quantity of so-called essence of Jamaica ginger which was adulterated and misbranded. The product was labeled: "Unrivalled for exquisite flavor. Crown Distilleries Co. This label with fac-simile of our signature on every bottle." And also labeled: "Essence of Jamaica Ginger."

An analysis of a sample of the product by the Bureau of Chemistry of this Department showed the following results: Specific gravity (15.6° C.), 0.9361; alcohol (per cent by volume), 48.42; solids (gram per 100 cc), 0.29; capsicum (Lewall-Nelson test), positive; ginger (Seeker test), positive; color removed by fuller's earth, 75 per cent. Adulteration of the product was charged in the indictment for the reason that capsicum and artificial coloring matter had been mixed and packed with it so as to reduce, lower, and injuriously affect its quality and strength; and for the further reason that capsicum and coloring matter had been substituted for a large portion of the genuine essence of Jamaica ginger, and that said product was composed of a very highly dilute essence of Jamaica ginger, capsicum, and artificial coloring matter; and for the further

reason that the said product had been colored in a manner whereby inferiority was concealed. Misbranding was charged for the reason that the labels on the product, as set forth above, were false and misleading, in that they would and were calculated to mislead and deceive the purchaser into the belief that the product was an essence of Jamaica ginger, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not so, but was a mixture of a highly dilute essence of Jamaica ginger, capsicum, and artificial coloring matter.

On December 20, 1912, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the indictment and the court imposed a fine of \$50.

W. M. HAYS,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 3, 1913.*

