

4346. Adulteration and misbranding of oil cassia. U. S. * * * v. Hilker & Bletsch Co., a corporation. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$50 and costs. (F. & D. No. 5820. I. S. No. 7868-e.)

On June 11, 1915, the United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against the Hilker & Bletsch Co., a corporation, doing business at Chicago, Ill., alleging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs' Act, on or about February 6, 1913, from the State of Illinois into the State of Colorado, of a quantity of oil cassia, which was adulterated and misbranded. The article was labeled: "Oil Cassia" (Guaranty Legend) "Serial No. 3305. Hilker & Bletsch Company, Manufacturers of Flavoring Extracts and Importers of Essential Oils. Chicago Cincinnati."

Analysis of a sample of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed the following results:

Cinnamic aldehyde	(per cent) ..	77.0
Specific gravity at 25° C.....		1.063
Solids (by drying)	(per cent) ..	20.97
Acid number of original oil		26.9
Rosin (Liebermann-Storch test):		Strongly positive.
Alcoholic lead acetate:		Heavy precipitate.
Refractive index at 26° C.....		1.5942
Polariscope reading in 100 mm. tube at 28° C.:		+6.8 angular degrees.
Iodin number		33.39

Adulteration of the article, considered as a drug, was alleged in the information for the reason that it was sold under and by a name recognized in the United States Pharmacopœia, and differed from the standard of strength, quality, and purity as determined by the tests laid down in said Pharmacopœia, official at the time of investigation, in these particulars, to wit: The specific gravity of said drug at 25° C. was above 1.055, and was in fact 1.063, whereas said Pharmacopœia provides as a test for oil of cassia that a specific gravity at 25° C. shall be between 1.045 and 1.055; and that the rotation of said drug was more than one degree and was in fact plus 6.8°, whereas said Pharmacopœia provides that the rotation of said drug shall not be more than one degree, and further that said drug contained rosin, which is not an ingredient of oil of cassia as determined by the tests laid down in said Pharmacopœia.

Misbranding of the article, considered as a drug, was alleged for the reason that the statement "Oil of Cassia," borne on the label, was false and misleading, in that it purported and represented that the drug was a pure oil of cassia, which said drug is well known to be a drug distilled from cassia cinnamon and entirely free from rosin, whereas, in truth and in fact, said drug was not a pure oil of cassia, but was an oil of cassia which contained rosin.

Adulteration of the article, considered as a food, was alleged for the reason that a substance, to wit, rosin, had been mixed and packed therewith so as to reduce, lower, and injuriously affect its quality and strength, and had been substituted in part for genuine oil of cassia which the article purported to be.

Misbranding of the article, considered as a food, was alleged for the reason that the statement "Oil of Cassia," borne on the label, was false and misleading, in that it represented and purported the article to be a genuine oil of cassia, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not, but was a mixture composed of oil of cassia and rosin. Misbranding was alleged for the further reason that

the article was labeled "Oil Cassia," so as to mislead and deceive the purchaser into the belief that it was a genuine oil of cassia, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not, but was a mixture composed of oil of cassia and rosin.

On July 14, 1915, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the information, and on December 10, 1915, the court imposed a fine of \$50 and costs.

CARL VBOOMAN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*