4830. Misbranding of vodka. L. S. v. 10 Cases of alleged Russian Vodka.

Default decree of condemnation, forfeiture, and destruction.

(F. & D. No. 5926. I. S. No. 11504-l. S. No. C-335.)

On September 28, 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 a libel for the seizure and condemnation of 10 cases, containing 200 bottles of vodka, remaining unsold in the original unbroken packages at Chicago, Ill., alleging that the article had been shipped on July 30, 1915, by the Russian Monopol Co. (Inc.), Brooklyn, N. Y., and transported from the State of New York into the State of Illinois, and charging misbranding in violation of the Food and Drugs Act.

Misbranding of the article was alleged in the libel for the reason that each of the bottles bore a label containing certain words and figures in the Russian language, and, in addition, the words and figures as follows, to wit, "Monopol Vodka made and bottled in Russia," which said statement upon the labels was false and misleading, in that the labels purported to state that the article of food was a foreign product, manufactured in Russia, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not manufactured in Russia, but was manufactured in the city of Brooklyn, in the State of New York, in the United States of America. Misbranding was alleged for the further reason that the said statement deceived and misled the purchaser into the belief that the article was a genuine vodka, bottled and manufactured in Russia, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was manufactured in the city of Brooklyn, in the State of New York, in the United States of America. Misbranding was alleged for the further reason that said statement was false and misleading in that it purported to state that the article was a foreign product, manufactured in Russia, whereas, in truth and in fact, it was not, but was manufactured in the city of Brooklyn, in the State of New York, in the United States of America, and was an imitation of the liquor or beverage known as vodka, and was offered for sale under the distinctive name of another article, to wit, the article of food, liquor, or beverage known as vodka.

On March 21, 1916, the default of all parties having been noted, judgment of condemnation and forfeiture was entered, and it was ordered by the court that the product should be destroyed by the United States marshal.

CARL VROOMAN,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.