

**4886. Adulteration and misbranding of pepper. U. S. \* \* \* v. The Great Eastern Coffee & Tea Co., a corporation. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$20 and costs. (F. & D. No. 6827. I. S. No. 13884-k.)**

On April 3, 1916, the United States attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, 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 Great Eastern Coffee & Tea Co., a corporation, St. Louis, Mo., alleging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on or about January 26, 1915, from the State of Missouri into the State of Illinois, of a quantity of black pepper which was adulterated and misbranded. The article was labeled in part: (On can) "4 Oz. Net The Great Eastern The Leader Beats all Ground Spices Black Pepper."

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

Total ash (per cent)-----	5.07
Acid-insoluble ash (per cent)-----	0.28
Nonvolatile ether extract (per cent)-----	7.64
Crude fiber (per cent)-----	14.28

Color and appearance show added pepper shells present.

Adulteration of the article was alleged in the information for the reason that a substance, to wit, pepper shells, had been mixed and packed therewith so as to lower or reduce and injuriously affect its quality and strength and had been substituted in part for black pepper, which the article purported to be.

Misbranding was alleged for the reason that the statement, to wit, "black pepper," borne on the label of the article, regarding it and the ingredients and substances contained therein, was false and misleading, in that it represented that the article consisted exclusively of black pepper, and further in that it was labeled "black pepper" so as to deceive and mislead the purchaser into the belief that it was pure black pepper containing no more shells than are normally present in pepper, whereas, in truth and in fact, it did not so consist [of] and was not pure black pepper as aforesaid, but did consist of a mixture of black pepper and added pepper shells.

On May 8, 1916, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the information, and the court imposed a fine of \$20 and costs.

CARL VROOMAN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*