

**5356. Adulteration of canned sweet potatoes. U. S. \* \* \* v. Leon H. Schwab. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$25. (F. & D. No. 7858. I. S. No. 1850-1.)**

On January 25, 1917, the United States attorney for the District of Maryland, acting upon a report by the Secretary of Agriculture, filed in the District Court of the United States for said district an information against Leon H. Schwab, Baltimore, Md., alleging shipment by said defendant, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on or about January 30, 1916, from the State of Maryland into the State of Virginia, of a quantity of canned sweet potatoes, which were adulterated. The article was labeled in part: "Gelco Brand Sweet Potatoes \* \* \*" or "Hector Brand Sweet Potatoes \* \* \*"

Analysis of samples of the article by the Bureau of Chemistry of this department showed that of 17 cans examined, 7 were swells, 3 cans had been broken open by pressure of gas, and the contents were escaping. The 7 which were not swells looked fairly representative of the good cans. Of these 7 cans, 3 were unmistakably foul and decomposed. The tin of one of these three was almost entirely eaten away, and the inside of the can was rust covered. Three cans of the seven might be considered passable.

Adulteration of the article was alleged in the information for the reason that it consisted in whole or in part of a filthy, decomposed, and putrid vegetable substance.

On January 25, 1917, the defendant entered a plea of guilty to the information, and the court imposed a fine of \$25.

CARL VROOMAN, *Acting Secretary of Agriculture.*