

United States Department of Agriculture,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

NOTICE OF JUDGMENT NO. 2727.

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

U. S. v. Western Wholesale Drug Co. Plea of guilty. Fine, \$10 and costs.

ADULTERATION OF OIL OF PENNYROYAL.

On April 4, 1913, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, 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 Western Wholesale Drug Co., a corporation, Los Angeles, Cal., alleging shipment by said company, in violation of the Food and Drugs Act, on or about August 28, 1911, from the State of California into the State of Arizona, of a quantity of oil of pennyroyal which was adulterated. The product was labeled: "2 Pounds. Oil Pennyroyal. Poison Western Wholesale Drug Co. 237-243 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, Cal."

Analysis of a sample of the product by the Bureau of Chemistry of this Department showed the following results: Specific gravity at 25° C., 0.9113; rotation at 25° C., + 22.8; refractive index at 20° C., 1.4765; solubility, not soluble in 2 volumes of 70 per cent alcohol, not clear in 50 volumes; ketones (as pulegone), by weight, 50.7 per cent. Adulteration of the product was alleged in the information for the reason that it was sold under a name recognized in the United States Pharmacopœia, to wit, oil of pennyroyal, and it differed from the standard of strength, quality, and purity for oil of pennyroyal, as determined by the tests laid down in said Pharmacopœia official at the time of investigation, in that said Pharmacopœia requires that oil of pennyroyal should have a specific gravity of 0.920 to 0.935 at 25° C., and form a clear solution with 2 volumes or more of 70 per cent alcohol, whereas the product had a specific gravity of but 0.9113 at 25° C. and was insoluble in 2 volumes of 70 per cent alcohol.

On May 13, 1913, the defendant company entered a plea of guilty to the information and the court imposed a fine of \$10 and costs.

C. F. MARVIN,
Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 8, 1913.*