

# SLIGHTING for FOOD CROOKS

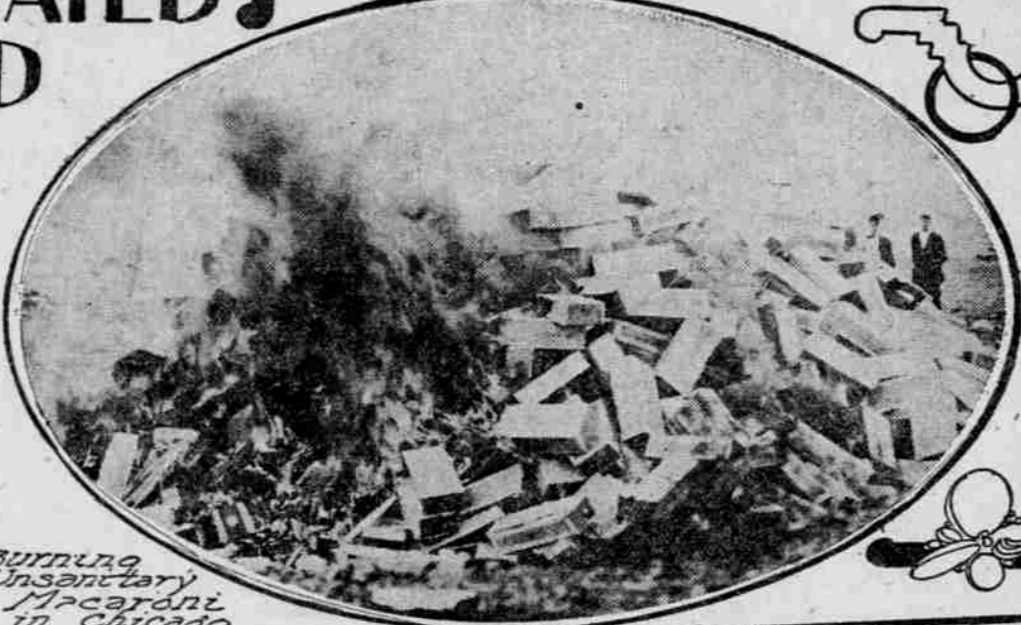
## UNSCRUPULOUS DEALERS ARE KEPT FROM SELLING ADULTERATED FOOD

Detectives Who Work for United States Government Perform Miracles in Capturing Clever Crooks Who Would, in Their Inhuman Greed, Poison the Race for a Dollar.



Walter G. Campbell Chief of Pure Food Inspectors

BY WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY.  
THERE is a new fight against crime going on in which the Federal Government is pitting a new organization of detectives against the unscrupulous manufacturer who sells deceptive and injurious food to the public that he may wax wealthy. The crime is new and the manner of its fighting calls for devices never used before.



Incidentally it has developed a new class of sleuth who today has his finger on the pulse of the trade of the nation that deals in the things the people eat. Here is a recital of some of the criminals that these sleuths have run to earth and of the methods the former have used to deceive and to poison a whole nation of people, including you and me.

**Selling Substitute Liquor.**  
There was a certain dealer in liquors in Chicago who was making wealthy through his counterfeit of foreign wines and their sale as the imported, duty-paying articles. This dealer actually imported a certain amount of liquor, probably six per cent of all he sold. With this as a nucleus he manufactured the duplicate of the imported goods. He manufactured duplicate bottles to contain it and duplicate labels that were such excellent counterfeits as to make their detection difficult. His trade was unable to tell the difference between the imported and the manufactured product. His own product was cheaper in the making and escaped duty. He was therefore able to undersell his competitors and still make unusual profits.

All of this is in violation of the pure-food and drugs act. It is criminal deceit. Under the law the manufacturer should be in the penitentiary.

Now, there are 40 food inspectors in the Chicago States and these are scattered about here and there, mostly in the commercial centers. These inspectors keep in touch with the trade. They regularly take samples of the imported articles entering into commerce, have them analyzed and determine whether or not they are as represented. The reputable trade lends assistance to the inspectors and makes their work more effective. There is no law requiring it but most manufacturers open their establishments to the inspectors. If admission to a factory is denied an inspector, his product is immediately put under suspicion.

The inspectors stationed at Chicago suspected the six liquor dealer. He was selling at a price that could not have been met by a duty-paying importer. The inspector asked to be admitted to the dealer's establishment and was refused. His suspicions grew stronger.

**Tracing a Shipment.**  
In order to convict this dealer evidence had to be introduced into court that showed the dealer's sale of wine to foreign some certain assignment of wine. This was difficult, for science is unable to tell old wine from new and part of his sales were genuine. It must be proven that a given shipment was manufactured, sold and entered into interstate traffic, before the Federal Government could act.

To establish this evidence an inspector disguised himself and, knowing something of the business, succeeded in getting employment from the dealer. He worked for weeks making out an absolute case to the effect that the wine was manufactured in Chicago, yet sold outside of Illinois as imported material. Eventually the price he was paying for these questioned eggs were higher than would have been warranted by the market price of the tanning material.

**Shadowing an Egg.**  
Being thus convinced that there was a strong possibility that these two dealers were working in collusion, the pure-food detectives laid about for a method of shadowing an egg in its supposed progress through these two establishments to the ultimate consumer. The task was made doubly difficult because of the enmity and suspicion in which both establishments held the inspectors and their consequent exclusion from them.

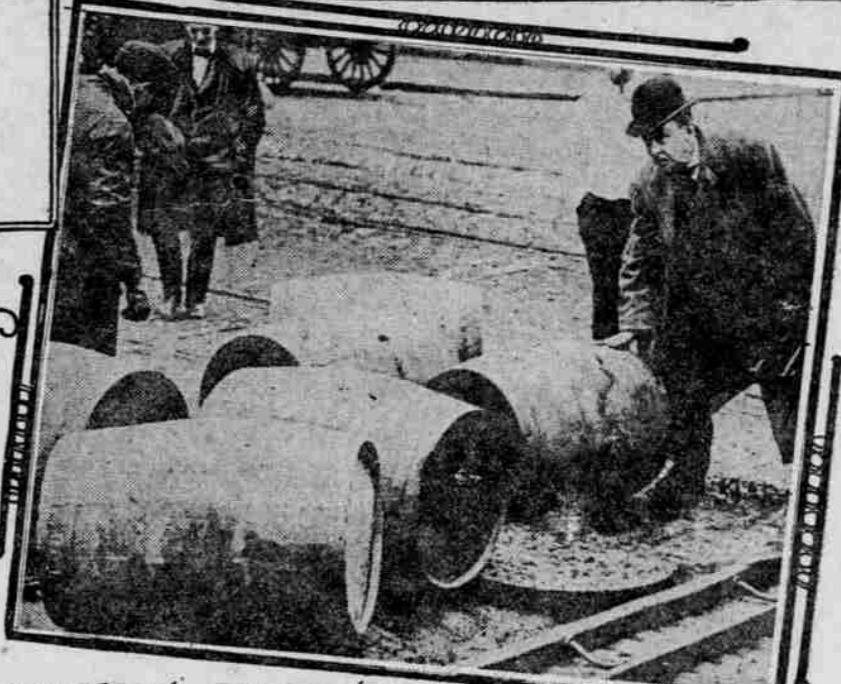
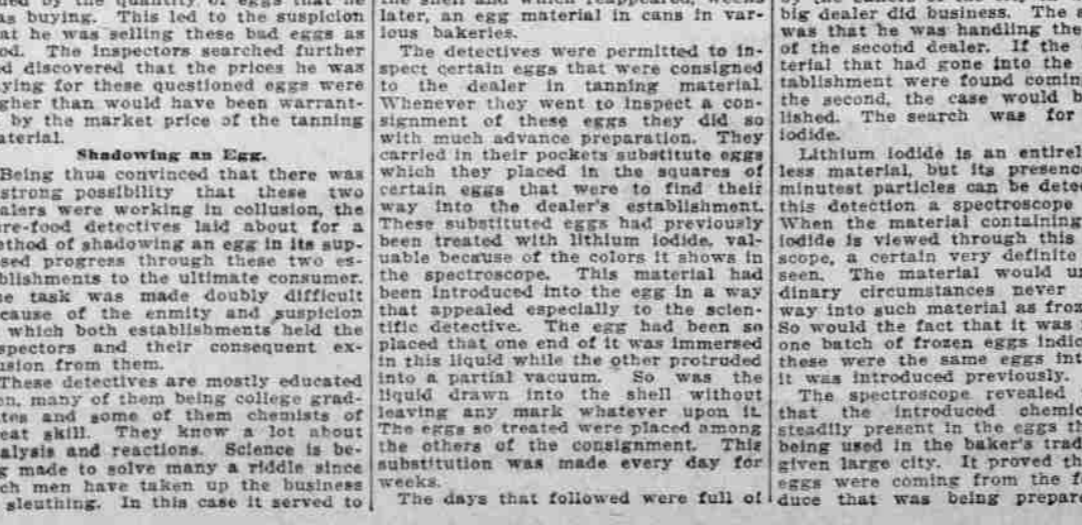
Burning Unsatisfactory Macaroni in Chicago



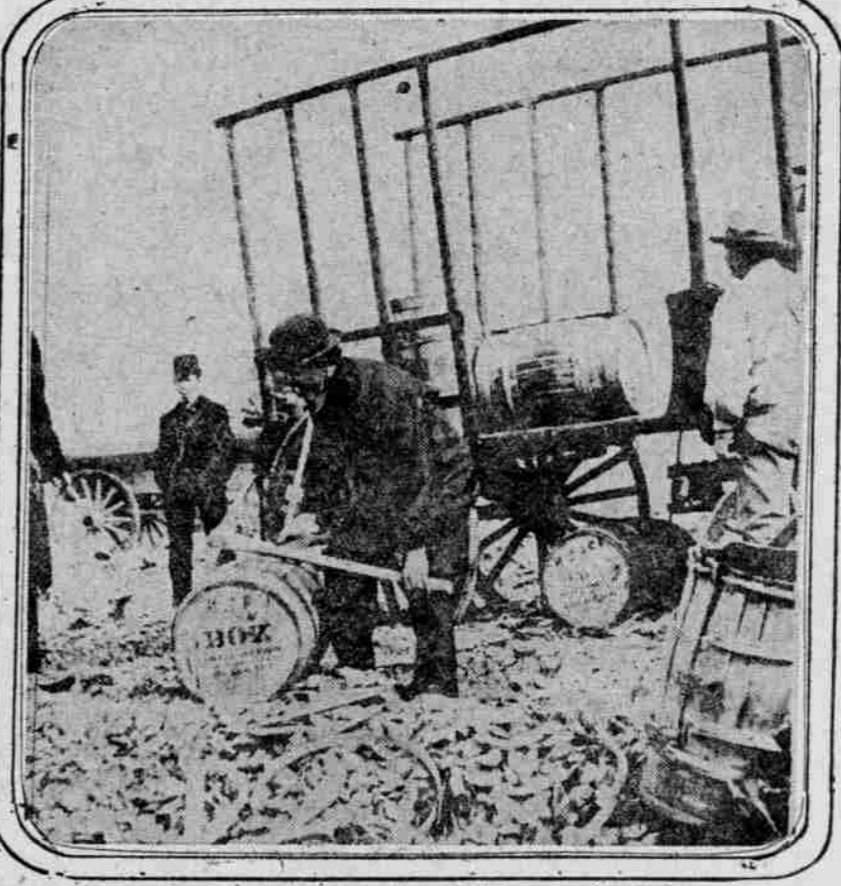
Government Inspectors Dumping Unclean Raisins into A Garbage Wagon.



A Seizure of Unclean Fish in Washington



Pure Food Inspectors Pouring Unclean Catsup into the Sewer.



Spraying Government seized oysters with coal oil

that die of disease found its way into the consignments that were shipped. This would make out a case upon which the Federal Government might act.

The coloring method was again resorted to. When the driver of the dead-horse wagon got an order he tipped off on certain places of business in question to another inspector. That inspector met him over the carcass and they injected into it another harmless coloring matter that could be unquestionably identified, whereas it might be again found. This material was potassium iodide. It remained invisible and its presence could not be detected until it came into contact with another chemical with which it reacted, making a most vivid color even when present in only minute quantities.

But these packers were not to their confidence a local health authority and either through stupidity or from more unworthy motives this health officer gave the packers warning that the inspectors waited in vain for the shipment. Not until the meat was placed on board ship would they have the necessary legal evidence to secure a conviction. The meat was not shipped. The inspectors, knowing that the meat was in the packing-house upon which they had the mark that would prove its origin, turned the case over to the state authorities, the proof that it had entered interstate or international trade being impossible to establish. The state entered the packing-house and found the meat ready for shipment. The state authorities, however, appeared that proved it to be made up of the flesh of the diseased horses that the disguised inspector had hauled in. A conviction was not secured because the meat had not been sold and therefore the case against the packers had not been made legally perfect.

**After the Flour Jugglers.**  
An even more complicated task faced the inspectors who made out the Government's case against the flour bleachers. The normal color of flour is yellow, but the millers have been bleaching it for so long that the public has come to demand it in white. Wheat when ground yields four grades of material, flour that is designated as patent, as clear, and as red dog, and bran. The heart of the grain of wheat and that portion of it just inside the shell, is yellow. That portion between the shell and the white "patent" flour left in its normal condition its quality might be judged by its color. But regardless of quality it is all bleached to a white and the public is deceived into believing that an inferior quality is superior.

The method of bleaching is very ingenious. Strong electric currents are run through given air bodies and these extract from that air nitrogen peroxide, which is a gas. This gas is introduced into chambers through which the flour passes and, uniting with the molasses of the flour, bleaches it. Incidentally they form nitrates which are injurious when eaten. The chief claim that the Government makes against this process, however, is that it aids in deceiving the public.

The pure-food inspectors were called upon to make out a case against the big millers of the West who were using the bleaching process by the means of a dened entrance into the mills. They eventually gained by masquerading as machinery salesmen. First they had mastered all the details of milling so that they knew the meaning of the network of flues that ran about a given mill. By a casual examination of the mill they were able to determine that the bleaching process was being used. They followed the flour that they had seen milled and bleached into the cars and into the interstate commerce and seized it. They won their case at the lower courts, but their appeal was granted and the higher court has not yet acted. The skilled work of the inspectors is, however, already on record as evidence.

**Personnel of the Inspectors.**  
There are 40 inspectors in the employ of Uncle Sam who are continuously engaged in running down violators of the pure food and drugs act. That law, being enforced by the Bureau of Chemistry, these men are under that bureau, and consequently in the Department of Agriculture. Walter G. Campbell, an active young attorney-scientist, is their chief. For some six years now the work has been progressing and developing. Much has been said about the violators of the law who were prosecuted. But little has been said about the men who produce the evidence upon which suits may be brought. These 40 are the men who produce that evidence. The average case is simpler than these here related. It depends, in the first place, on establishing deception in the product. This may ordinarily be established by the scientist by an examination of the given sample of the product. A very large element of the enforcement of the law is the analysis of these samples and a determination as to whether or not they violate the act. These examinations also determine whether or not the label on the product is deceptive. If it is, the law is in that way being violated.

If the sample shows deception, then there is the necessity of proving the entry into interstate commerce. The difficulty is not as great, ordinarily as in the case of the Chicago liquor dealer, for there the local manufacturer had that fact that the meat of the horses

A Seizure of Unclean Fish in Washington

Identify eggs that were first seen in the shell and which reappeared, weeks later, an egg material in cans in various bakeries.

The detectives were permitted to inspect certain eggs that were consigned to the dealer in tanning material. Whenever they went to inspect a consignment of these eggs they did so with much advance preparation. They carried in their pockets substitute eggs which they placed in the squares of certain eggs that were to find their way into the dealer's establishment. These substituted eggs had previously been treated with lithium iodide, valuable because of the colors it shows in the spectroscopic. This material had been introduced into the egg in a way that appealed especially to the scientific detective. The egg had been so placed that one end of it was immersed in this liquid while the other protruded into a partial vacuum. So was the liquid drawn into the shell without leaving any mark whatever upon it. The eggs so treated were placed among the others of the consignment. This substitution was made every day for weeks.

The days that followed were full of examinations of the egg material used by the bakers of the city in which the big dealer did business. The suspicion was that he was handling the product of the second dealer. If the egg material that had gone into the first establishment were found coming out of the second, the case would be established. The search was for lithium iodide.

Lithium iodide is an entirely harmless material, but its presence in the minutest particles can be detected. In this detection a spectroscopic is used. When the material containing lithium iodide is viewed through this spectroscopic, a certain very definite color is seen. The material would under ordinary circumstances never find its way into such material as frozen eggs. So would the fact that it was found in one batch of frozen eggs indicate that these were the same eggs into which it was introduced previously.

The spectroscopic revealed the fact that the introduced chemical was steadily present in the eggs that were being used in the baker's trade in the given large city. It proved that these eggs were coming from the foul produce that was being prepared, sup-

possibly, for use in the tanning of gloves. So was the health of the community being endangered and so was an unthinkably foul product going into its food that a profit might be realized by one or two men.

It is such business as this that is being broken up by the detectives of the Department of Agriculture. The Department, however, goes a step further and offers a remedy for the necessity of selling foul egg material. It has solved the problem of properly treating this egg material that it may not become foul. This method is attempting to teach the dealers who are inclined to adopt better methods and whose sale of undesirable material may have been incidental and because it deteriorated while in their possession.

A reporter on a local paper in New Jersey was talking with an employe of a meat-packing and tallow-recovering establishment that maintained an isolated plant on the Meadows. The employe remarked that there was a portion of the plant from which the public and most of the employes were excluded. The newspaper man's curiosity was aroused and he visited the