

## United States Government Articles

### Jail Men for Shipment of Rotten Eggs in New Jersey

**S**EVEN of the men connected with the Western Egg Yolk Company and the Excelsior Baking Company, so-called, of New Jersey, who were convicted of conspiracy to violate the food and drugs act in the interstate shipment of rotten eggs, have been sentenced in the Federal Court at Trenton, N. J., to terms in prison ranging from three months to a year and a day. Hyman Lewis, Bernard Edelberg, Samuel Edelberg, and Morris Sladkus received the latter sentence, Herman Zwicker and Harry Lewites, six months each, and Scheir Weissman, who was recommended for mercy, three months.

Some of the defendants, it was proved, were doing business under the name Western Egg Yolk Company, and others under the name of the Excelsior Baking Company for the purpose of purchasing eggs which had been condemned and denatured in New York City and selling them to bakers in Jersey City, N. J., in violation of the Federal food and drugs act.

In practically every shipment of eggs there are certain to be at least a few that cannot pass the candling test and are, therefore, discarded by dealers. In a large city like New York the eggs rejected in this way will amount in the course of a day to a considerable number. The law forbids their use for human food, but permits them to be denatured and sold for technical purposes, the chief outlet being tanneries.

The Western Egg Yolk Company, it was proved, purchased these denatured eggs, but instead of selling them to tanneries, or finding other legitimate markets for them, removed the denaturing substance and sold them to certain New Jersey bakers for use in cheap cake and other similar articles.

In July, 1913, a lot of eggs transported from New York in a wagon belonging to the company was seized in Jersey City. The containers in which these eggs were shipped were branded "spots," "rots," and "not intended for food purposes."

Investigation showed, however, that this labeling was merely a subterfuge to avoid interference by the Federal authorities, and that there was a definite plan to sell the eggs to bakeries and that the Western Egg Yolk Company had been organized for this purpose by a number of men who had been prominently identified with the egg business in New York City for some time.

The Department of Agriculture, therefore, did not content itself with the seizure of these eggs, but continued its investigations until sufficient evidence was collected to warrant the Federal District Attorney of New Jersey in securing indictments for conspiracy.

### Law for the Protection of Birds Is Still Effective

**M**ANY of the press comments on the decision of the United States District Court, rendered March 20, at Topeka, Kan., holding that the Federal migratory bird law is unconstitutional, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, are erroneous and are apt to mislead the public concerning the real situation in this matter.

The Kansas decision, like a former decision to the same effect in the Eastern District of Arkansas, is limited in its operation solely to the district in which it was rendered. Neither decision settles or nullifies the law, and the exact contrary has been held by the United States District Court for South Dakota. The Arkansas case has been appealed to, and is now pending in the United States Supreme Court.

The act of Congress protecting migratory birds stands effective until the Supreme Court finally decides the question of its constitutionality. In the meantime, it is incumbent on every law-abiding citizen to observe its provisions and the regulations. It is the duty of the Department of Agriculture to enforce this law and the officials in charge will endeavor to do so as long as it is in force.

Reports of violations will be carefully investigated and when sufficient evidence is secured they will be reported for prosecution. In this connection it should not be forgotten that an offender against this, as in the case of other United States laws, is subject to prosecution any time within three years from the date the offense is committed.

### Mad Mule Bites.

The Oregon State Board of Health has treated many persons for bites by mad dogs. Recently they received the first patient that had been bitten by a mad mule. C. E. Brown, a young farmer of Ford Rock, Lake County, applied to Dr. Calvin S. White for the Pasteur treatment. Brown said that his mule had been bitten by a mad coyote 40 days before. The animal had been sick and he was trying to doctor it. While attempting to give the mule medicine, it turned and bit Brown on the arm. The mule died of rabies and Brown left at once for Portland.

### New Standard for Condensed Milk Is Made by Government

**C**ONDENSED or evaporated milk should be made from the whole, fresh, clean milk produced by the complete milking of healthy cows, and contain a definite amount of nutritive materials as indicated by milk fat and total solids, according to a food inspection decision issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. The definition embodied in the decision will guide the officials of the Department in the enforcement of the food and drugs act.

The product, to be in accordance with the definition, must contain not less than 25.5 per cent of total solids and not less than 7.8 per cent of milk fat.

The total solids include all the substances in the condensed or evaporated milk except moisture, and are, therefore, an index of the actual food value of the product. The Department officials are of the opinion that by fixing a minimum below which neither the total solids nor milk fat may fall, a condensed milk of high nutritive value is insured. It is stated that no tolerance whatsoever below the quantities fixed in the decision will be permitted.

The definition also requires that the milk must be from cows properly fed and kept, and is intended to prevent the sale of condensed milk made from milk from cows fed upon unwholesome feeding stuffs, such as swill and brewery slop, or which have been kept under such insanitary or otherwise unfavorable conditions as might impair the quality of the milk.

The definition for condensed milk as embodied in the food inspection decision is the same as the definition and standard recommended by a joint committee from certain state and National organizations having to do with the enforcement of laws relating to foods. The organizations represented on the joint committee on definitions and standards are: The American Association of Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

The joint committee on definition and standards is the outgrowth of a movement to increase the efficiency of the enforcement of state and Federal food laws by the adoption of uniform standards. The standard for condensed milk has already been adopted by a number of states. Additional legislation will be required in some states before it can be made a legal standard in those states.

### "Death Camas" Proves Very Deadly to Sheep

**K**EEP your sheep from the death camas (Zygadenus), says the United States Department of Agriculture to ranchmen. Cattle and horses should also be kept from this herb, although actual fatalities from the poisoning are almost entirely confined to sheep. Nausea, muscular weakness and coma are some of the principal symptoms of the poisoning. There is no satisfactory medical remedy, but affected livestock, if kept quiet for some time, will often recover.

The death camas (Zygadenus) is most dangerous early in the season, not because the plant is more poisonous at that time, but because it is more likely to be eaten at that time when other forage is dry. Later, sheep are less likely to eat a large quantity, because of the greater abundance of other food. As a matter of fact, most of the cases of extensive poisoning have occurred before the flowering of the plant, which occurs in the late Spring.

It is impossible to make even an approximate estimate of the losses of sheep because of the Zygadenus, but it is certain that they are very heavy.

Investigations have led specialists to believe that many of the losses in Oregon, Utah and California, which were ascribed to other poisonous plants were really caused by the death camas, and without doubt this plant is one of the sources of the greatest loss to sheep owners in Wyoming and Montana. It is said that in 1909 in one county in Wyoming 20,000 sheep died because of the Zygadenus.

The death camas may be recognized by noticing its leaves, which are grasslike, long, narrow and shaped as though they had a keel. They grow from a bulb. The flowers are greenish-yellow or white. The plants are perennial, blossoming in the late Spring or early Summer and then disappearing.

This poisonous herb occurs abundantly in the mountain regions of the North, and although found very widely throughout the United States, it is only in the Western region that it has become of sufficient importance to be noticed. The plant is sometimes called wild onion; other names applied to it are the soap plant, alkali grass, squirrel food, mystery grass and poison sego.

There have been cases of human poisoning as well as stock poisoning as the result of eating the deadly herb. Most of the cases have been children who found the bulbs attractive and have collected them instead of the edible camas. There have been a number of fatalities, although most cases recover.



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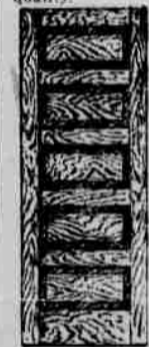
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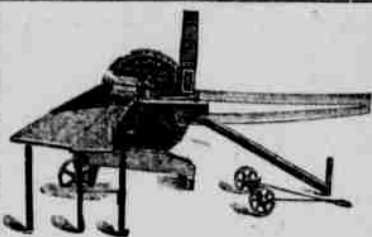
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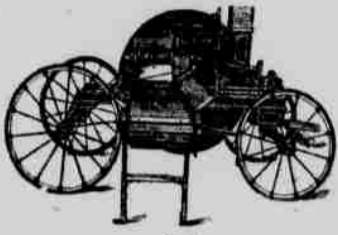
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