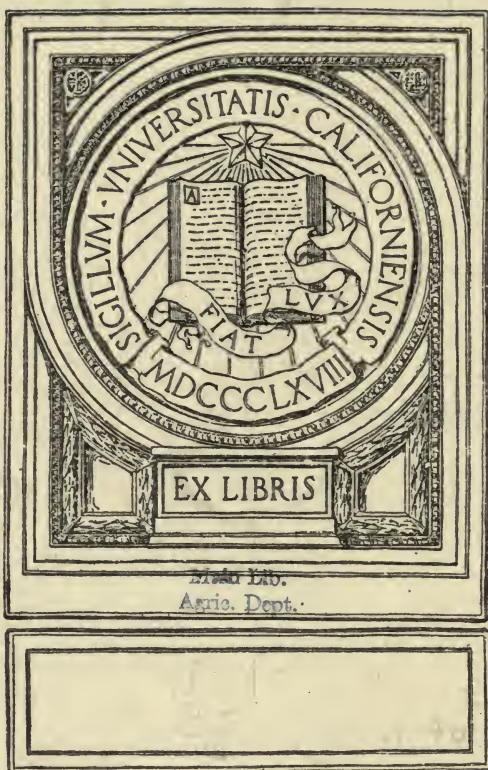


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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY.—Circular No. 21.

H. W. WILEY, Chief of Bureau.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LABELING OF IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS.

[Artificial coloring matter (especially sulphate of copper), glucose, and foods
“Prepared with oil.”]

In addition to the suggestions to importers of food products, as set forth in Circular No. 18 of the Bureau of Chemistry, the following proposed regulations, rendered advisable by conditions revealed in the inspection of imported foods, are submitted for the information of importers and their agents:

The use of sulphate of copper as a coloring matter in certain green vegetables has become quite prevalent. Sulphate of copper is a substance which in itself acts as a quick emetic and irritant and therefore its presence in food products must be looked upon as undesirable.

“Copper sulphate is irritant or mildly escharotic; and when in dilute solution, stimulant and astringent. At one time it was given in *epilepsy* and other nervous diseases; but at present it is never used internally, except for its influence upon the gastro-intestinal mucous membrane. In *chronic diarrhoea* with ulceration it is often a useful remedy. In doses of 5 grains it acts as a powerful, prompt emetic, without causing general depression or much nausea, but it is too irritant to be used freely.

“A dose of copper sulphate as an astringent is a quarter of a grain (16 milligrams), as an emetic 5 grains (330 milligrams).”—(United States Dispensatory, 18th edition, p. 468.)

It is claimed by some manufacturers, chemists, and hygienists that copper sulphate, when added to green vegetables, forms compounds which are harmless to health.

Pending investigations which are now making, all food products colored with sulphate of copper, or to which sulphate of copper has been added for any purpose, should contain upon the label a statement in English, in letters not smaller than long primer caps, as follows: “Colored with sulphate of copper,” or if preferred, “Prepared with sulphate of copper.” A statement of the quantity of copper, if any, which may be permitted in food products under the provisions of the law is reserved until further study of the question can be made.

Food products artificially colored with other substances than sulphate of copper should bear upon the label, in letters of the size described above, the legend “Artificially colored,” or if the manufacturer prefers, the statement “Colored with anilin dye,” or whatever dye stuff may be used.

Manufactured food products in which glucose (sugar made by hydrolysis with an acid or otherwise from starch) has been used instead of sugar, or for other purposes, should bear upon the label in English, in letters of the size above mentioned, “Prepared with glucose” or some statement of similar import. The glucose which is used must be free from arsenic or other injurious substances.

In countries where olive oil is the common edible oil the expression on food products "Prepared with oil" or "Packed in oil" will be construed to mean olive oil. Where a mixture of oils is used, or another oil than olive oil, a statement to that effect should be made upon the label.

This regulation in regard to labeling will go into effect on February 2, 1905. Importers are requested to immediately acquaint their agents in foreign countries with this ruling, in order that the proper preparation of the labels may be secured.

H. W. WILEY,
Chief, Bureau of Chemistry.

Approved:

JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 17, 1904.

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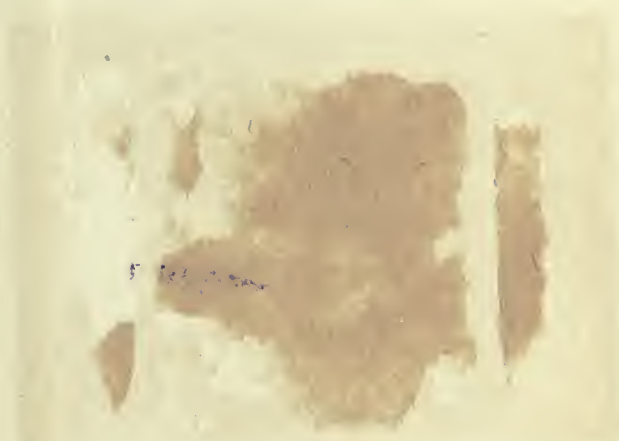
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Handwritten text, likely a signature or name, appearing below the large stain. The text is faint and difficult to decipher, but seems to consist of several lines of cursive or semi-cursive script.

