

The fourth schedule to the Adulteration Act defines *Dry White Lead* as follows: "Basic carbonate of lead prepared by the corrosion of metallic lead." *White Lead in Oil* is defined as "Dry White Lead ground in pure linseed oil, in the proportion of 90 to 92 per cent of the former, to 8 to 10 per cent of the latter."

These definitions appear to be sufficiently explicit. They must, however, be read in connection with Section 38 of the Act. (R.S. 1906), as follows: "Every person who marks, brands or labels any article or any package containing any article mentioned in the first column of the fourth schedule to this Act, with the word *pure* or *genuine*, or any word equivalent thereto, or sells or offers or exposes for sale any such article or package, unless such article, or the contents of such package are *pure* within the meaning of the second column of the said schedule, shall, for every violation, be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars."

It is apparent from the results of this inspection that manufacturers and vendors of white lead, in admixture with barytes or other substance, have proceeded upon the assumption that they did not render themselves liable to penalty by labelling such mixtures as *White Lead* so long as they did not describe it as *pure* or *genuine*; and it must be confessed that Section 38 seems to afford some basis for such an interpretation. As I have already pointed out this interpretation is however entirely at variance with the fundamental principle of the Act, which demands, that the purchaser of any article shall be supplied with the thing he demands, and that he shall be made aware, by the label, or otherwise, of the nature of the article supplied to him. This is made clear, so far as foods are concerned by Section 3, which states the conditions under which food shall be deemed to be adulterated, within the meaning of the Act. Sub-section (b) defines as adulteration, the substitution of any inferior or cheaper substance, wholly or in part, for the articles demanded. This is modified by Section 21 (d) which permits the sale of mixtures or compounds, if these are distinctly labelled, in accordance with the facts.

Although Section 3, applies specifically to *foods*, it is reasonable to infer that the principle of explicit and truthful declaration is intended to apply as well to the articles named in Schedule 4, as to foods. In other words; just as when an article is sold as pepper or coffee or butter, it is required to be pepper, or coffee or butter, unmixed with foreign matters, so, an article sold as white lead, should be simply *white lead* and not a mixture of white lead with barytes or other cheaper substance. It is not necessary that the purchaser ask for *pure pepper*; his demand for pepper assumes that pure pepper is wanted and requires that pure pepper be tendered. So it should not be necessary to ask for *pure white lead*, in order to receive such article. A demand for *white lead* should be sufficient, and if a mixture of white lead with barytes is offered, the article should be labelled in such a way as to show that barytes is present; or at least to show that a mixture, and not simply white lead is offered.

If, in the light of Section 38 of the Act, it is not sufficiently clear that the sale for white lead of a mixture of white lead with barytes, or other cheaper substance constitutes adulteration, then it is evident that the Act must be amended in such a way as to make the matter quite clear. It is certain that purchasers of white lead are continually deceived in being induced to believe that they buy genuine white lead when they are really supplied with a mixture containing 50 per cent or more of barytes; or, in some cases, containing no lead at all.

Sixty-one samples, or more than 58 per cent. of this collection, consists of material sold as white lead, and containing amounts of barytes varying from about 25 to over 90 per cent. Thirty-two of these samples contain over 50 per cent of barytes. All of these are sold as white lead, although it is true that none of them claim in so many words, to be *pure* or *genuine*. I have marked them, in the table, as containing barytes, without declaration. Ten other samples contain no white lead.

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