

gation and to avoid any suggestion of collusion, Secretary Houston decided it would be better for Mr. Olmstead to be out of the office during the inquiry. The investigation is likely to result, it was suggested by an official in the transfer of the entire bureau of statistics to the census bureau.

A press dispatch says: In an effort to validate the federal government's claim to thousands of acres of oil land in Wyoming and California, valued at hundreds of millions of dollars and even as high as a billion dollars, according to some estimates, Attorney General McReynolds definitely decided to appeal from the decision of United States District Judge Riner of Cheyenne, Wyo., upholding the Midwest Oil company's title to 4,000 acres in Wyoming. This is a test case and round it revolves many tracts of valuable oil lands claimed by other interests.

Not only will this case be appealed but a similar case pending at Los Angeles will be prosecuted and many other suits will soon be filed to contest the title of innumerable claimants and prevent their withdrawing the oil until the ownership is settled. It is believed the issues finally will reach the United States supreme court.

These developments are regarded here as indicating that the new administration indorses the conservation policy of Former President Taft with respect to these lands. President Taft withdrew the tracts in 1909 on the ground that the great quantities of oil were being wasted and squandered by private interests when the lands should be reserved until the government was prepared to dispose of them in the best interest of economy. He also held that adequate tracts should be withheld from entry to afford fuel oil for the United States navy.

The president's power to make the withdrawals was questioned and on June 25, 1910, congress affirmed his authority and the lands were re-withdrawn. In the meantime many entries were made and Judge Riner has held that the original withdrawal was invalid.

A press dispatch says: Probably the most radical and far-reaching extension of the food and drugs act since its enactment was made on June 17, when Secretaries Houston, McAdoo and Redfield, charged with enforcing this statute, ruled that meat and meat products in interstate or foreign commerce, which hitherto have been exempted from the provisions of the pure food law, may be seized if misbranded or adulterated. Beginning at once manufacturers of meat foods will be required to comply strictly with the food and drugs act, as well as with the meat inspection law.

The action was taken on the strength of an opinion by Attorney General McReynolds.

The three secretaries revoked a regulation adopted in October, 1906, only four months after the passage of the pure food law, which had prevented the department of agriculture, according to a statement by Secretary Houston, "from prosecuting manufacturers of meat foods under the pure food law or ordering seizures or prosecution for misbranding or adulteration of domestic meats."

Secretary Houston said he could not understand why meat and meat products were not food in the sense of the food and drugs act, or why his department could not seize bad, adulterated or misbranded meat once it had entered interstate commerce. He had therefore sought the advice of the attorney general.

"Under the meat inspection law," the secretary said, "meat inspectors

have absolutely no power to seize meat or meat food products that have become bad or have been adulterated after they have left a federally inspected house. One remedy possible under the meat act is to proceed criminally against one selling bad meat, but even in this case, meat can not be seized nor its sale prevented.

"With the regulation of 1906 revoked, the department can seize and prevent the sale of bad and adulterated meat, once it has crossed the state line and remains in interstate commerce. In case spoiled meat again reaches a federally inspected establishment it comes, of course, under the jurisdiction of the meat inspection law, and can be destroyed as heretofore has been done. Under the new decision, the government can control foods from the hoof, from the retailer, subject only to the limitations of the power of the federal government in interstate commerce. The department is empowered to require all manufactured meat products to conform fully to its labeling regulation, and can enforce its penalties, prosecutions and seizures for misbranding and adulteration."

An Associated Press dispatch, dated June 16, says: Four prominent Japanese have arrived in Washington in pursuance of an inquiry they are making to ascertain the real feeling in the United States regarding the relations between Japan and America with special reference to the California land legislation. They are Dr. Soyeda, one of the foremost statesmen and financiers of Japan, and Messrs. Kimiya, Shima and Abeko, the latter editor of a Japanese paper in San Francisco. The visitors are charged with no official mission, but are engaged in an altruistic effort to ascertain and if possible to remove the causes that have been imposing a strain upon the friendly relations between America and Japan. During their stay in Washington they will seek conferences with some of the higher officials of the government as well as with members of congress.

Accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Chinda, the four envoys paid an unofficial visit to Secretary Bryan. During the conference Dr. Soyeda, who heads the envoys, told the secretary of the results of their peace mission along the Pacific coast, and expressed the hope of an early and amicable settlement of the diplomatic negotiations over the California situation.

An Associated Press dispatch says: The Webb law forbidding interstate shipments of liquor into "dry" states is not a criminal statute and violations of it can not be prosecuted in United States courts, according to instructions sent by Attorney General McReynolds to every United States attorney in the country. The law merely prohibits such interstate traffic and contains no penalty for infractions.

"It's purpose," said the attorney general, "is to permit state laws to operate in respect of intoxicating liquors moving in interstate commerce."

The law simply deprives shippers of any privileges they might claim on the ground of interstate commerce and permits the application of state prohibition laws to interstate commerce in liquors.

This is the first time the department of justice has construed the Webb law, which was declared unconstitutional by former President Taft and former Attorney General Wickersham. President Taft vetoed the bill on the ground that it violated the interstate commerce clause of the constitution by delegating the regulation of interstate commerce to the



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