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WART DISEASE IN POTATOES.

A case which the Board of Agriculture were said to have regarded as of great importance was heard at Donington (Shrewsbury) Sessions, yesterday, when the Rev. M. J. Ransome, vicar of Church Pulverbatch, was charged with failing to report the existence of wart disease among the potatoes in his garden.

Mr. John Snell, inspector to the Board of Agriculture, who prosecuted, said the prevalence of wart disease in potatoes had already affected our export trade to the extent of thousands of pounds, and unless the disease were kept under, the country would be unable to produce potatoes on some of its best potato land. The Board felt that the time had come when they must enforce the observance of the wart disease Order, for there had been hundreds of cases in which the presence of the disease had not been reported.

Defendant denied that he knew the disease existed in his garden, but Mr. Snell said when such specimens as those he produced were found, there should be no doubt something serious had happened.

The case was adjourned for further evidence.