

 Catalogues of the Great Sale of Thoroughbred Short-Horn Durham Cattle, to take place at Richmond Depot, Halifax City, N. S., on 13th August, are now ready, and may be obtained by sending card of address to Prof. Lawson, Halifax, or personal application at the office of Messrs. J. Duggan & Sons, Auctioneers.

A NEW Agricultural Society has been organized at Sherbrook, in the County of Guysborough, and the Declaration, in accordance with the Act, filed through D. Matheson, Esq., the member for the District. There are upwards of forty members, many of them subscribing \$2, others \$1. Secretary, Allen McQuarrie.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS, THEIR COMPOSITION AND VALUE.

[From the Country Gentleman.]

The phosphate matter becomes more and more interesting and important, and when we give the farmer scientific facts, hitherto beyond his reach, as in the late statement made by Thomas J. Edge, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania State Board, we greatly add to this growing desire to know still more of the hidden elements of this enormously increasing business. If Mr. Edge could tell us, as buyers and users of superphosphates and commercial fertilizers, how to tell when the fertilizing ingredients, ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash are drawn from legitimate sources, and when taken from sources not worth 50 per cent. as much; if he can tell us how we can buy and know we are not throwing money away, then the table of comparative correctness or slight chemical differences between analytical stations, in the profession would be practical. Suppose there is a chemical value in phosphate, and it is locked up to the plant and the soil, what is its value to the purchaser who uses it? The general agent of phosphates boldly defies the chemist, and local agencies report it, saying they will furnish phosphates by analysis worth \$30 in these three ingredients, and another brand by the same chemist worth \$10, or 33 per cent. higher, which will cost the manufacturer less, and be less valuable to the farmer in a soil test. Now does this

mean that in analysis there is no safety, and that farmers can be ignorantly paying, in trusting science, one-third or one-fourth too much for phosphate?

E. S.

Answer by Dr. E. L. Sturtevant, Director State Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y.

When a belief once gains currency, it is very difficult to change it. There was a time when adulteration was very commonly to be found in fertilizers, and accusations of fraud were well founded in very many instances. The increase of analytical stations, the publishing of the records of analyses, and the competition between dealers have now produced a change, so that whatever may have been the case in the past, at the present time we may say that adulteration is infrequent. There is no fine that a court could impose that would equal in severity the publication of an analysis of a spurious article, together with the name of the manufacturer or of the dealer. Among the manufacturers who are well known to the public, the idea of fraud in their goods would be repudiated at once, from motives of self-protection, even if other worthier motives did not come in. The danger to the public comes from irresponsible men, go-betweens as it were, between the manufacturer and the public, who sell brands as of their own manufacture, but which are made up for them according to their own directions. Some such dealers on a small scale are apt to select limited localities wherein to ply their avocation; localities in which there is little liability of their goods being questioned, and samples furnished to competent parties for analysis.

The articles which go into the composition of a fertilizer are original materials and the wastes of other industries, and so far as we know there is but one

waste which is occasionally used to furnish a product presumed to be fertilizing but yet unavailable to the plant—I refer to leather scraps. The original articles of fertilizer manufacture are Charleston rock, or allied natural products, and salts of potash.

Advertisements.

Resolution of Provincial Board of Agriculture, 3rd March, 1882.

"No advertisements, except official notices from recognized Agricultural Societies, shall be inserted in the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE in future, unless PREPAID at rate of 50 cents each insertion for advertisements not exceeding ten lines, and five cents for each additional line."



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