

The Act is primarily intended to protect the purchaser of fertilizers by assuring him of the actual values of what he buys.

With this object in view we endeavour, through our inspectors, to obtain samples of all brands of fertilizers found on Canadian markets. The sample is always taken by our inspector in the presence of the vendor, whose privilege it is to see that our inspector obtains a representative sample of the fertilizer in question. Our inspector is properly instructed in the matter; but he requires to have the vendor present; and the vendor is either the manufacturer, or is an agent of the manufacturer; and as such is interested in seeing that a truly representative sample is taken.

It must not be forgotten that the results of analysis apply not to the whole output of the manufacture, but to that portion of the goods which comes into possession of the Analyst. Yet, upon the result of analysis of this portion, must be based the action of the Department; and the importance of securing a truly representative sample is therefore evident.

It is the duty of the dealer to see that he offers only a properly registered and tagged (or otherwise labelled) fertilizer for sale.

It is his duty to see that the tag is legible, and that it belongs to the very package to which it is attached.

The registration number constitutes a legal identification of the brand; and the manufacturer is responsible, inasmuch as he must furnish an article having the guaranteed values registered at the Department in connection with the number on the tag.

Any question of properly applying tags, labels or registration numbers to particular packages, must be arranged between the dealer and the manufacturer.

Our inspector's duty is to see that the package or packages from which he takes his samples, are tagged or labelled, as required by law; or, if not tagged or labelled, to report the fact to the Department. In this case, the dealer is liable to a fine of Fifty Dollars. It is further the duty of our inspectors to secure a representative sample of the goods; to divide this into three portions; to seal each portion, and to leave one of the three portions with the dealer. If he so desires, the dealer may affix his own seal to one of the three portions, in addition to the inspector's seal. The other two portions are sent to these laboratories.

While the Department recognizes that fertilizer analyses are made primarily in the interest of the user of the fertilizer, it is not forgetful of the commercial importance attaching to the publication of our results, as affecting the manufacturer and the vendor.

Identification of the brand depends upon the vendor and the inspector; the former being responsible for the correctness of the information furnished to our inspector; the latter for accurate transmission of such information to the Department.

The portion received at the laboratories is carefully sampled by an experienced man, and about eight ounces of the material bottled for the use of the analyst. When the whole series has been reported on, those samples which fail to meet guarantees are set apart.

They are transferred to new bottles (to prevent the possibility of recognition of the container) and marked with numbers, the key to which is in possession of the Chief Analyst only. They are then submitted to a second analysis, and it is only when the results of this check analysis corroborate the first results, that these are established as final.

No amount of care on the part of our officers will secure justice to a manufacturer, whose agent (the dealer) is careless. The manufacturer is required to tag or label every package of his goods.

These come into the possession of the dealer, who perhaps handles many other brands.