

CONCENTRATED COMMERCIAL FEEDING STUFFS.

Cattle Foods, of the kind included above, consisted until quite recent years, of wheat bran, shorts, middlings, linseed meal, oil-cake, &c., or mixtures of these: substances which may be characterised as the normal by-products of milling, oil pressing, and similar industries.

The by-products named were obtained by well defined and long established methods of milling, and possessed a fairly constant character. When a farmer bought bran, or shorts or oil-cake, he was fairly well assured of getting an article whose value he could depend upon; and when a manufactured food was made from such materials it, too, possessed a fairly definite value.

With recent improvements in milling, and specially since the extensive manufacture of Cereal Breakfast Foods, there have resulted immense quantities of by-products unknown before, and varying extremely in their value as nutrients. The expansion of the cotton-seed industry, of beet sugar and molasses, of corn-oil manufacture, glucose waste, &c., has brought into existence other classes of by-products, having more or less value as cattle food. These articles are in many cases, not available separately, on account of impalatability or for other reasons. Hence has resulted a great increase in the amount of manufactured or so called "concentrated" stock food on the market.

It is apparent that this condition of things offers a great inducement to unscrupulous manufacturers to use valueless material in compounding their goods. The state of things is, indeed, quite analogous to that obtaining in the fertilizer industry; and the farmer is as much at the mercy of the Feed manufacturer as he is at the mercy of the "Fertilizer" manufacturer.

Connecticut, in 1895, was the first of the United States to recognize the necessity for legislation in regulating cattle foods, of the kind referred to. Since that date, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan and Wisconsin have enacted feeding stuff laws. The last named State only passed its feeding stuff law in 1901, and in amended form in 1905. I learn that several other States contemplate the immediate enactment of similar laws, as they find that they are made the dumping-ground for goods which are refused sale in the States already safeguarded by having legal control of such articles.

The fundamental principles of the legislation above referred to, so far as I have acquaintance with it, are these:—

1. Requiring a license to sell.
2. Payment of a license fee (usually \$25 annually) to cover the cost of inspection.
3. The manufacturer must guarantee a minimum percentage of protein and fat in the article he offers for sale.
4. Continuous inspection of the article as found on the market.
5. Publication of analytical results.
6. Penalty for failing to reach the guaranteed values.

In his letter above referred to, Mr. Cumming says:—

"In the course of my travelling through Nova Scotia, and from the correspondence we constantly receive, I gather that there is a rather wide-spread suspicion or distrust among our farmers as to the genuineness of many of our concentrated feeding stuffs