

to let me have it for \$35 and \$30 a ton. I got a lot of it. Lately I find that I am obliged to pay \$40 for superphosphate. The best superphosphate contains twenty-five per cent. of bone. Forty dollars a ton is rather a high figure for twenty-five per cent. of bone, and ordinary mortals cannot afford to pay that amount. I then went around to a bone man to find out what bones were worth. He said, "I cannot sell you any now. I have entered into a contract, so that all the bones I can raise are furnished to a concern, and I cannot give you any now." He also said,— "After a year I think I can let you have a ton for sixteen dollars." He was getting \$16 a ton for bone, and our farmers have to pay \$40 a ton for *bone dust*. Thus \$25 is paid for crushing the bone. The next question to decide is,— "How are you going to get your bones crushed?" I happened to have the power and I could get a machine which would cost me something like \$200 or \$300. I calculated that in two or three years that machine would pay for itself. I concluded that the best plan would be to buy bones and crush them, and I accordingly did so. After doing that I thought it might be well to talk the matter over with a number of gentlemen who are deeply interested in this question—for the orchardist is fully as interested as any agriculturist can be. I may state that I took Mr. Starr through a little orchard of mine where previously a number of Rhode Island Greenings had been badly spotted, and we found that I got first-class apples, and scarcely a spot on the Rhode Island Greenings. If I have \$40 to pay for bone I would like to get \$40 worth, and I don't want to pay \$40 for the quarter of it in value. If you want to get all the use you can out of it the first year, by all means get super-phosphate; but if you put a fair quantity of bone into the soil it cannot be washed away, and the benefit will be permanent. If you use very finely comminuted bone, you get more use out of it for the time being, but if you use coarse and fine mixed together, you get an article that will do for the present, and will also give you that substance for ten years.

There is another point which I may mention. The agricultural chemist is a very valuable individual. You send him soil, and he will tell you what that soil contains, and by knowing what it contains you know what it lacks and what to add. But no chemist can tell exactly what form of phosphorus is best calculated to be taken up. He cannot tell the practical farmer exactly what he wants to put into

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