

Phosphate of lime guaranteed.

%	%	%	%	%
8 to 45	38 to 45	38 to 45	38 to 45	38 to 45
	%	%	%	
	38 to 45	37	38 to 45	

Phosphate of lime found.

29.95	34.22	36.42	36.42	36.07	27.52
		33.38	36.17		

Fineness guaranteed.

80 to 90	80 to 90	80 to 90	80 to 90	80 to 90
	80 to 90	80 to 90	90	

Fineness found.

75	66.5	72.2	76	72	74	77	75.2
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Two other cases not included in the Consulting Chemist's statement appear to further indicate the importance of members giving their orders for fertilisers and feeding-stuffs on the forms or in the manner laid down in the printed suggestions issued by the Society. It is there recommended that members should give their orders on the condition that the vendor "guarantees the article to be in accordance with the conditions specified on the back of the order relating to such article, and subject to the analysis and report of the Consulting Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England." The conditions as regards basic slag are that it must "be guaranteed to contain a certain percentage of phosphoric acid, or its equivalent in phosphate of lime [a good quality should contain about 17½ per cent of phosphoric acid, equal to about 38 per cent of phosphate of lime], and to be sufficiently finely ground that 80 to 90 per cent passes through a sieve having 10,000 meshes to the square inch."

A member of the Society sent a sample of basic slag for analysis by the District Agricultural Analyst appointed by the local County Council: and the analysis showed a lower percentage of phosphate than was guaranteed in the invoice. The vendor's attention was called to this, and he offered an allowance, which allowance was not, in the opinion of the District Analyst, sufficient. But it does not appear that, under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act of 1893, the buyer is entitled to receive from the District Analyst more than "a certificate of the result of his analysis" (Section 5), or to ask the District Analyst his opinion respecting the money value of the article. Nor is the vendor at all bound by any such opinion

expressed by the District Analyst. In the case in question, the seller of the basic slag declined to increase the amount of allowance he offered, It was at this stage that the member sought the assistance of the Royal Agricultural Society. But the analysis not having been made by the Society's officials, and the Society's form of order not having been used, all that could be done was to refer the inquirer to the powers of Sections 5 and 6 of the Act of 1893, in case the vendor should take proceeding for the recovery of the debt due to him.

In the second case, the buyer accepted an invoice which guaranteed only a certain percentage of phosphoric acid, but said nothing as to any guarantee of fineness of grinding. The sample, on analysis by Dr. Voelcker, was found to contain a slight deficiency of phosphoric acid below the minimum guaranteed, but to be very coarsely ground. The buyer was, therefore, unable to enforce the claim which he desired to make on receiving Dr. Voelcker's report that the material was ground much less finely than was desirable to enable the fertiliser to have a prompt action on the soil, because he had not stipulated in advance for any minimum degree of fineness, as suggested in the Society's recommendations.

Had these members given their orders for basic slag on the form prepared by the Society (copies of which are at all times at the service of members), they would have been in a much better position, since the fee charged by the Society (10s.) for an analysis of basic slag or other fertiliser includes "an opinion as to whether it be worth the price charged," and the order makes it clear that it is given, and that the fertiliser is accepted by the buyer, "subject to the analysis and report of the Consulting Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England."

E. W. STANYFORTH, *Chairman.*

February 6th, 1900.

Foot and mouth.—We regret to say that three outbreaks of this terrible complaint has taken place in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, in the county of Norfolk, England. The Board of Agriculture is, of course, taking every possible pains to confine the disease to its original locality; the Irish authorities have suspended the importation of cattle into Ireland for the time being; and if farmers generally will support the measures