

Besides Table I. there is also attached to this report a tabulated statement giving the results of obtaining samples of fertilizers in the open market. The collection was made, in accordance with your instructions, in the months of March and April last, and all the information obtained, as well as the results of submitting them to the district analysts for examination, are given in Table II. It will be observed with regard to each of these 'fertilizers as sold' that, in most cases, there are three lines of figures opposite the description of each sample. The uppermost of these shows the contents guaranteed by the manufacturer; the next lower line gives the percentage of fertilizing constituents found in the standard sample, and the lowest line gives the same percentages as found by the district analysts in the sample collected. In cases where no standard samples have been submitted to the department, and, nevertheless, in contravention of the Fertilizers Act, the brands in question have been offered for sale, the two upper lines will, of course, show no figures. The number of such samples of fertilizers, not registered and therefore illegally sold, and to which I called your attention in a report dated April 28, 1902, amounts to ten, which, compared with the number of similar samples in 1901 (eleven), does not show much improvement. In such cases it has been customary heretofore to warn offending parties, but this does not seem to have the effect of preventing these contraventions of the Fertilizers Act, and I have to submit for your consideration the question as to whether some more severe method of dealing with such infractions should not be resorted to.

According to the opinions expressed by the district analysts, five out of the 85 samples collected have been found to be adulterated, being deficient in available phosphoric acid or other fertilizing constituents, while eight others have been characterized as being 'below guarantee.' This is not quite such a favourable showing as that of last year.

I beg to recommend the publication of this report, with the tables attached to it, as well as the 'Memoranda on Manures' which it is customary to print at the same time.

I have the honour to be, Sir

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS MACFARLANE,

*Chief Analyst.*