

would be a mere trifle, in comparison with the advantage gained ; for of three or four fertilizers offered for sale in a neighbourhood one may be worth two, three or four times as much as another, while the same price is asked for all ; the chemical analysis will show beyond a doubt which one that is.

Supposing that this idea is to be carried into execution by twenty or thirty farmers, or by some farmers' club, it is of the first importance that the sample selected should be a fair representation of that which is offered for sale ; the best that the chemist can do is to give a true and faithful report of the analysis of what is sent to him. To this end, your representative, who is to make up the samples and dispatch them to the chemist, should go himself to the dealer, and take each sample from one of the packages of the fertilizer ; for greater surety, it would not be amiss to take a little from each of several packages of the same kind of fertilizer ; thus he might obtain six or eight pounds of each kind, out of which quantity, after mixing it thoroughly together, he would take from half a pound to a pound for analysis ; this should be put in a stout paper bag, and this package again in another, and the label attached. All the samples should then be packed in a small box, and dispatched at once. Usually, all to be required in return will be the percentage of soluble and insoluble phosphoric acid, if the article is claimed to be a superphosphate, although it may be well to have the nitrogen determined also ; but no account should be taken of the potash, unless it is specially claimed by the maker of the fertilizer that its value is due, to a considerable extent, to that substance.

When your return comes back, multiply each percentage by twenty, and you have the number of pounds of each of the valuable constituents of each fertilizer in a ton of it ; then, taking the highest value per pound for these, that has been allowed by any good authority in this country, namely, those fixed by Mr. Goodale, Secretary of the Maine Board of Agriculture, and recognized in the statute of that State regulating the sale of commercial manures, values that are certainly high enough, and multiplying the number of pounds of insoluble acid by six, the num-