

I venture to say that in many localities in Germany, no intelligent farmer would think of using a superphosphate without having it examined by a chemist, if not every year, yet every few years.

And what is more, while in many parts of the country such provision is made that every farmer can have a sample of a fertilizer analyzed at very low rates, there are also laws by which the manufacturer is required to label every package of his fertilizer with a statement of the percentage of soluble phosphoric acid it contains, and of nitrogen also, or of whatever else of value he may claim that there is in it; and redress is provided for, in case any sample, taken by a farmer to a competent chemist, shall be found poorer in quality than was guaranteed on the label. Maine, famous the world over for at least one of her laws, for who has not heard of the "the Maine liquor law," has a law similar in purport to the above, in regard to the commercial fertilizers offered for sale within her bounds. Connecticut has such a law, and there ought, by all means, to be one in this great State.

But even without any such law farmers could do something, especially by concert of action, for their own protection. It might not be profitable for a single farmer, using only a ton or two of commercial manures each year, to have samples of such as are offered for sale in his neighbourhood examined frequently, in order to determine, not only which, if any, are comparatively worthless but also which one is the best. But if there should be a dozen or two, or more such farmers, who, all together, would invest from \$600 to \$3,000 in a good fertilizer, if they were sure of getting one that would give them a reasonable return for their investment, it surely would be worth their while to expend the half of one per cent. or less for a chemical examination of what they intend to purchase at so much cost, and at no slight risk, provided they depend only on manufacturer's guarantee and recommendation for guidance in deciding upon the comparative merits of the different brands of manure. The analysis of half a dozen samples could be made to answer just as well for a score of farmers as for one; and when so many could unite together in paying for the work, the chemist might be well remunerated, while each farmer's share of the cost

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