

Mr. James S. Morse, member of the State Legislature, says: "They have prohibited the sale of it in the State of Maine, as it is absolutely no use."

Mr. Jerry Martin: "Have tried the stuff; it is no good; don't ask me to recommend it; my crops were much better where none was used."

Mr. F. A. Coffin: "Yes, I have used this fertilizer, and consider it useless. I might just as well grind up the rock on my own farm, and use the money."

Mr. T. J. Goddard: "Have used the stuff; it is no use; spoiled my crop; it is only a fake."

Mr. Allen, of Allen, Sterling and Lothrop: "We sell several kinds of fertilizers, but never handle this particular one, as we know it to be a fake."

It seems scarcely necessary to quote further; because the fraudulent character of the article is sufficiently indicated in the way it is advertised.

Most of the statements made in the pamphlets are garbled extracts from various publications, and many of them are patent falsehoods. Thus, on page 26 of the larger pamphlet is the following: "I have recently had one of the best chemists in Boston make careful tests as to the solubility of the material, with nothing but pure rain water. He found, in five days' time, after filtering through a filter paper, that 5.9 per cent had become soluble, without changing the water in the test tube. In fourteen days, 17 per cent went into solution with pure rain-water. In twenty days, 27 per cent went into solution". It goes without saying, that rocks of this kind are insoluble in rain-water; and it is because of their insolubility in rain-water that they persist. In order, however, to meet the above ridiculous statements by direct evidence, I caused the actual test to be made, and found the water soluble matter, in five days, to amount to 0.005 per cent or less than one-tenth of one per cent.

In a land of free speech like ours, where every fad, social, religious, political, or other, has its apostles, it need not be regarded as wonderful that even the legitimate use of fertilizers should find voluble opponents. I am aware that advocates of so-called "clean culture" are in evidence (see Simpson Morgan in The Vegetarian for March 1917, reprinted in Chemical News of March 16th, 1917.) But the advocacy of this absurdity is one thing, and the attempt to sell by fraudulent means a broken rock at fifty times its value is quite another thing.

As the spring season is upon us, and the demand for fertilizers is very great, I would respectfully press upon you the necessity of immediate action, in the interests of our farmers, who are having this useless article pressed upon their attention by self-interested agents. I would suggest the immediate publication of the letter, in an edition of 10,000 copies; and ensure its effective distribution by our agents, and through the manufacturers of registered fertilizers. Agricultural papers will doubtless give it additional publicity.

I would respectfully recommend publication of the report as Bulletin No. 371.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.