

It may be well to point out briefly the main features of the new Fertilizers Act.

1. Every fertilizer must be registered, and the registration number must be affixed to every package or parcel sold.

2. The registration number remains constant, for the same fertilizer, from year to year.

3. The manufacturer must attach a statement to every package guaranteeing definite amounts of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash.

4. Departmental inspectors will purchase samples of all brands of fertilizers offered on the market. These will be analysed, and the results published annually. Users of fertilizers will be able to know, from this publication, whether the manufacturer lives up to his guarantee or not.

5. Should any purchaser wish to have a special analysis of a registered fertilizer as furnished to him, he may get such analysis at a nominal fee of one dollar. His sample must be taken in such a way as to fairly protect the vendor. The registration number under which sold, enables easy and certain identification to be made.

6. Any purchaser who causes a fertilizer to be specially made to his order, can have such fertilizer analysed, but it will cost him five dollars.

7. Fertilizers imported for use, and not for sale, are not inspected under the Act. The importer may have an analysis made, but it will cost him five dollars.

8. In reports of fertilizer analysis, it has been the custom to introduce a statement of the relative value of the fertilizer based upon the content in phosphoric acid, nitrogen and potash. This feature will be discontinued, because of the facts, (1) That trustworthy relative values for the different ingredients of a fertilizer cannot be obtained. (2) that the value of a fertilizer is not solely dependent upon the cost of materials entering into its composition. The character of the crop and the nature of the soil are very important factors in determining the value of a fertilizer in use, and the cost of labour and transportation, as well as the degree of perfection attained in grinding and in mixing are elements of value which are not connotated in the calculation of relative values. (3) That the so-called *relative values* hitherto published have been made use of by salesmen, to the injury of purchasers of fertilizers. This has been done by reading into these numbers meanings which they were not intended to carry.

I may further add, that in spite of every precaution taken by the framers of a Fertilizer Inspection Act, and in spite of the utmost care by an executive department in its administration, true economy in the employment of fertilizers makes demands upon the intelligence of the farmer. It is necessary that he should acquaint himself with the terms used in describing fertilizers: with the needs of plants and with the nature of soils. The man who reads and thinks and who is willing to do some experimental work on his own fields, is the man who can afford to use fertilizers because he will use them intelligently.

The text of the new Fertilizers Act is appended to this report; and fertilizer inspection in 1910 will be carried out under its requirements.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. MCGILL,
Chief Analyst.