

*By Mr. McMillan :*

Q. Would gypsum not have the same effect of absorbing the odour?—A. Yes ; it takes up the ammonia. It is very useful for that purpose. But this is a litter as well as an absorbent. It serves a double purpose, and the manure that results from the rotting of the moss litter is rich, and contains its plant food in available forms. I have no data of my own to present in this connection, but those who have experimented with the resulting manure report it as of excellent quality, and giving the very best returns. I think that in the preparation of moss litter there is a possibility, not only of furthering the interests of agriculture directly, but of building up an industry which will be of value to the commerce of Canada generally, because there is an ever increasing demand in the stables of the cities of the world for litter in some convenient form. All the larger cities of the States, New York and Boston and so forth, are using every year larger and larger amounts of this moss litter, and it will only be a very short time before those keeping horses in Canadian cities will find it a more convenient litter than straw.

*By Mr. Carpenter :*

Q. Do you not think it advisable to cut straw which is intended for litter?—A. Yes ; it is.

Q. It goes further?—A. Quite so ; its absorbent capacity is increased.

*By Mr. McMillan :*

Q. Have you ever experimented with pease straw, using it long, just as it is fresh after cutting it? Its absorbing power is three times as much when it is fresh cut as when it is dry?—A. I have never seen the experiment tried, but I have no doubt your observation has been correct.

One peculiarity with regard to the absorptive capacity of this moss is that when it is artificially dried it has by no means the same retentive power for liquids that it possesses when it has been air-dried. We dried some moss litter at a temperature of boiling water, 212° Fahrenheit, and we found that its absorptive capacity was reduced almost to nil.

We have done some work this year in the analysis of what we may call industrial fertilizers, waste products, or by-products, from various manufacturing industries, for example, waste from the shoddy mill, slaughter offal, tankage and materials of that nature. A full account of these appears in my report for 1895.

*Phosphoric Acid in Mineral Phosphate.*—We have also continued our experiments with a view of rendering available the phosphoric acid in mineral phosphate, and in the report just referred to, will be found a summary of the experiments that we have carried on in that connection during the past year. I hope to be able to continue that work, and eventually to be in a position to bring before our people some economical and ready method whereby the phosphoric acid in our finely ground mineral phosphate may be rendered available upon the farm.

*By Mr. McMillan :*

Q. There is one experiment which in my opinion should be made and that is this : Take manure from the stables and lay it out in the open air. Take some at the same time and leave it in a shed, and see what is the difference between the manure prepared in the shed and that prepared in the open air. A large quantity is made in the barnyard, and I am convinced that there is a great loss. It is better inside. We, for a time, made part of our manure inside and part outside, and we considered that it took three loads from the barnyard to make it equal to two from the sheds?—A. Yes. I have under consideration an experiment that I trust will in a great measure answer that question.

One experiment I purpose making in connection with this finely ground mineral phosphate, is to ascertain if the phosphoric acid is rendered soluble by fermenting it with barnyard manure. If we find that the phosphoric acid is thereby converted into a con-