

Our Fertilizers Act is intended to protect the farming industry by requiring that no fertilizer shall be sold unless it is registered, and carries a statement of its actual content in fertilizing material. Most, if not all, the States of the American Union, take the same precautions. It is in consequence of this that the promoters of this fraudulent enterprise have found it necessary to change the original name, and to describe their product otherwise than as a fertilizer.

Nevertheless, the material is actually sold as a fertilizer, and described to the farmer as such. Thus, a pamphlet published by Nature's Plant Food Co. contains the following statements: at page 9, "Why plant two acres of half fertilized corn, when by using our Plant Food you can raise more and better corn on one acre of ground? "Nature's Plant Food can be applied to all growing crops by surface application, clear up to the time of harvesting and every application will show immediate results by forcing the plants to a more vigorous growth and greater yield." Page 15. "Nature's Plant Food, insures crops of palatable, finely flavoured vegetables, and juicy, aromatic, wholesome fruit." "If the land is in ordinary good condition and a general crop is to be raised, we advise using this Plant Food at the rate of 1,000 or more pounds to the acre." Page 15. "Strawberries; when setting out new vines, work about one ton per acre of this Plant Food into the top soil." Page 19. "This Marvellous Food contains the very minerals the soil craves, and the plants must have." Page 42. "As the source of the potash and the soda for the sugar beets, we can only consider Nature's Plant Food, which, thanks to God, is contained to a very slight degree in many soils, while the nitrogen is furnished by the atmosphere."

I hold that the above quoted statements, with numerous others, do convey to the reader, the idea that the article is a fertilizer, and that they are written with this intention. The whole trend of its advertising is to make the farmer believe that it is to all intents and purposes, an agricultural fertilizer; and anyone who purchases the material will, to that extent, be certain to curtail his purchase of really valuable fertilizers.

It is, in reality nothing more than crudely pulverized rock, such as may be obtained from the siftings of any stone pile, where Syenite has been crushed for road making, and is not even ground to any uniform degree of fineness.

As a fact, nature's true plant food consists of the gases of the atmosphere, rain water, and the soluble constituents of fertile soil. Many soils are deficient in the more soluble ingredients, namely compounds of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium, and less frequently of calcium. For this reason manufactured fertilizers seek to supply the missing substances. Compounds of nitrogen are normally the most costly of these, but for the last year or two, potassium compounds are held at excessively high prices. The article now under consideration contains no nitrogen, and traces only of phosphorous and potassium; these traces being locked up in compounds which make them practically useless in agriculture. The other ingredients of this article are normally present in sufficient quantity in all ordinary soils, and their purchase at any price, is unwarrantable while at \$30.00 per ton, the matter becomes sheer waste of money.

It would be bad enough to see time spent money for worthless material, under the delusion that one was buying an agricultural fertilizer; but it becomes a positive crime just now, when because of these conditions we are asked to make our farms as productive as possible. The purchase of this material is not only buying that which has no agricultural value; but he is thereby prevented from purchasing effective fertilizers; and losing the season.

Mr. Inspector Forde of this Department has just returned from Rumford, Maine, where the company is stated to have its mills. He reports that a nickel mine, some ten and a half miles from Rumford, was closed down six or seven years ago, and was re-organized later by a Mr. McCrellis, with a view to selling the crushed rock as New Mineral Fertilizer. A number of farmers and others in the locality were interviewed, and without exception denounced it as a fraud. A few of the statements made may be quoted:—