

promiscuity with which agricultural bulletins, reports and statistics are scattered over the country. My attention was recently drawn to the rather drastic action of the Governor of New York state in vetoing the bill authorizing the grant of money necessary for the publication of agricultural bulletins by that state this year. His action was a sequence to the refusal of the State Dept. of Agriculture to itemize the expenditure to be met by the grant. It made me think that it might be well for us if we had him over in Canada for a while.

I am not saying we should not publish useful information, scientific data, etc., but I do say that we could get along quite as well with less copious editions, especially of many of the reports of societies and bureaus, and withal a more judicious distribution of what is printed. During the past five years, I have seen enough of such literature to fill a box-car consigned to the waste basket without even having been opened. With my own hands, I have on cleaning-up days carried armfuls of such useless truck, the accumulations of years, out into the back-yard and set a match to it. One or two copies of each official publication should be enough for each department on the mailing-lists at headquarters. But when a copy comes to each member of each department and sometimes two or three, and many of them of no interest whatever to the recipients, it becomes exasperating to say the least. Surely there should be some means devised of regulating the distribution of governmental literature.

Permit me to cite another and a more specific case of misdirected energy which has recently presented itself. The soils of this province (N.S.), are almost without exception deficient in lime and in many cases extremely acid.

Throughout the province are large deposits of limestone, much of it of excellent quality. It is a well established fact that limestone ground sufficiently fine and applied to the land has given good results on sour and worn-out soils, and recently a great deal has been said and written about the beneficial effects of lime. Lectures have been delivered all over the province and literature circulated telling of this great panacea for sick soils. The same holds true for all the provinces but the problem the poor farmer is up against is the cost of grinding. At present rates, the ground rock costs on an average about \$5 per ton. When we consider that the most of our soils require three to four tons per acre with applications at intervals of every four or five years we can see the farmer's position. No matter how much we preach to the farmer about the action of lime and the remarkable results from its use he is going to think a long time before he will sink \$20 per acre in the venture and the man who does try it has a great deal more faith than the average.

What we must do is to reduce the cost of the crushed material so it will be within the reach of the man of ordinary means. At present, I know of only two rock crushers in this district. They are privately owned and are a veritable gold mine to their owners.

What is there to hinder the government from buying several of these crushers and putting them into operation in the various limestone districts of the province at a nominal fee per ton for the benefit of the farmers who are anxious to try the material, but who, at present prices, have not the wherewithal. Such action would do more good than all the Institute meetings that could be held from now till the end of time. I am not decrying the