

# LABORATORY

## OF THE

# INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

### BULLETIN No. 371

## "NATURE'S PLANT FOOD"

OTTAWA, 13th April, 1917.

J. U. VINCENT, Esq. K.C.,  
Deputy Minister of Inland Revenue.

SIR,—I would respectfully call your attention to a gross fraud sought to be perpetrated upon the farmers of Canada by the sale of an article offered as Nature's Plant Food; the manufacturers having their Canadian Agency at Chatham, Ont.

The article in question is merely a crushed rock of the Syenite type, such as exists in limitless quantity at very many places in Canada, where it is used for macadamizing roads, and other purposes. I cannot call it a pulverized rock, since a sample examined from this point of view, in these laboratories, gives the following results:—

|                            |                            |           |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Fineness.</i>           | Passes 100 mesh sieve..... | 50.9 p.c. |
| "                          | 80 " .....                 | 9.0 "     |
| "                          | 60 " .....                 | 5.0 "     |
| "                          | 40 " .....                 | 6.1 "     |
| "                          | 20 " .....                 | 12.2 "    |
| Held by 20 mesh sieve..... | 16.8 "                     |           |
|                            |                            | 100.00 "  |

Basic phosphate and other slags, having vogue as fertilizers, are required to be ground so that at least 80 per cent passes the 100 mesh sieve, and the whole, as a rule, passes the 80 mesh sieve.

The same material was sold at various places in the United States as "New Mineral Fertilizer"; and the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, at Orono, made a test of it in 1911. The results in detail are published in Bulletin No. 209 of the above mentioned station, and copies may be had by addressing Dr. Chas. D. Woods, Director. The following quotation shows results obtained on plots which were planted to potatoes and corn, and in each case treated as indicated.

1. No fertilizer was added.
2. A complete fertilizer w. . added.
2. The so-called New Mineral Fertilizer was added.

|                                     | Total Crop. | Pounds. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                                     | Potatoes.   | Corn.   |
| 1. Without any fertilizer .....     | 285         | 175     |
| 2. With good fertilizer .....       | 346         | 450     |
| 3. With New Mineral Fertilizer..... | 265         | 145     |