

Tags are torn off, or labels are rendered illegible. The dealer is too often careless in re-tagging. We have many times found a sample of a complete fertilizer sold with a number which belonged to a slag, or *vice versa*, and again and again we find discrepancies between the claim corresponding to the number on the tag, and the actual results of analysis, so great as to make it certain that there is something wrong in identification of the brand. In strict law, we are justified in publishing the results in these cases, and in holding the dealer, as agent, entirely responsible for the failure of the sample, as sold by him, to meet the claim on the tag it bears.

Unfortunately, however, such action works injury to the manufacturer of the brand, who may be perfectly innocent; and involves the reputation of a manufacturer, who is in no way responsible for the particular brand in question.

I am convinced that dealers in fertilizers must be made to feel the responsibility they have both to the consumer and to the manufacturer whose goods they handle. This may be best done by strictly enforcing the penal clauses of the Act against them, in all cases in which it is clear that carelessness has caused them to blunder as above described.

Fifteen samples of this collection which were sold without any registration number, have been supplied with what are assumed to be the numbers belonging to them, as inferred from information given by vendors. In all of these cases the assumed registration numbers are placed in brackets to distinguish them from registration numbers furnished by our inspectors. In twelve of these cases, the results of analysis meet the terms of the assumed guarantee. In the remaining three cases, there is, of course, no basis on which to found any charge against the manufacturer. The identification of the brand is an assumption.

It is not fair to the manufacturer who had secured a registration number for his different brands, to assume the identity of an untagged fertilizer sample with any one of these; and this practice will be discontinued in future. The only just way of dealing with fertilizers offered for sale without tags, is to impose the maximum penalty fixed by Section 15 of the Act (Fifty Dollars) on the dealer.

I would respectfully advise publication of this report as Bulletin No. 264.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. MCGILL,

*Chief Analyst.*