

them Peruvian guano, have offered to furnish them with good new bags, for the guano bags containing the inspector's mark!

Suspecting, however, that they were wanted for dishonest uses, they refused to part with them.

There is a peculiar earth on the southern slope of Hampstead Hill, near the eastern limits of Baltimore, of which I have been informed, large quantities have been, and may still continue to be secretly carted into the city. There being no conceivable honest use for which this material can be brought into the city, and it being very similar in color to Peruvian guano, it was reported to be used to adulterate that article, the mixture being put up and sold in old guano bags containing the inspector's mark! Some months since, the inspector called the attention of the police to the affair, who arrested parties, carting away this earth in guano bags during the night. The arrest was evidently made at an injudicious time, because upon examination the bags were found to contain only the earth. If, however, the parties had been watched until they had taken it to their mixing depot, and completed the crime, they might *possibly* have been properly punished.

During the late season of active field-work, I endeavored to collect for examination samples of guano, ground bones, and artificial fertilizers, which had been purchased and received by my farming friends. Finding but few kinds in their possession, I requested that samples might be forwarded me whenever they shall again purchase.

Among others I got in person a sample of guano from Col. Jno. S. Sellman, of Anne Arundel county, which being sold for Mexican AA, should have contained phosphoric acid equal to 55 per ct., or more of phosphate of lime, and yet the analysis showed but 36 per ct. In this case the Colonel paid for 50 per ct. more phosphate of lime than was implied in the purchase, and if the deficiency had not been discovered, he would have suffered a still greater loss by not applying a proper dose of the phosphate to his soil. How much of this guano was sold and used by farmers, I have no means of knowing.

Samples of other guanoes and fertilizers have recently been received and are under examination.

In using an ammoniated guano we should always mix with it a portion of ground plaster in order to prevent the escape of the ammonia or its carbonate.

I may add also that the experience of those who have several times applied Peruvian guano to the same field, has generally shown that after the second or third application it produces little or no good result unless other manures are also applied. In England the same effects have been observed.

This has been attributed to the large proportion of ready-