

The system from all the testimony we have received, seems to be practical and beneficial to the interests involved, and we know of no changes that can be made, that will improve its efficiency. We therefore respectfully report and recommend that no change be made in the present law, but suggest that the month and year in which it is imported, should be marked by the Inspector, upon every package of Peruvian Guano, thus enabling the farmer to learn the age of the particular lot he is purchasing.

The report with the accompanying statement, submitted by the Inspector, has been carefully examined by us, and though the amount of expenditure appears large, we are satisfied from the vouchers and affidavits presented, that the various amounts charged, have been properly expended, in the discharge of the duties of the office as required by the law. A number of expenses having been incurred the first year in establishing the office, &c., which will not be required hereafter, it was a question with the committee, whether the price for inspection might not be reduced, and a sufficient amount received to defray the expenses of weighing &c., and leave a fair compensation for the officer; after mature consideration of this question, we have concluded that in view of the fact, that the amount of importations in each year are uncertain and variable, and that the importations this year, have fallen off over 20,000 tons, making a large diminution in the amount of receipts, that a reduction of the fee for inspection would tend to lessen, in some measure, the efficiency of the present system, by a curtailment of expenditure in the employment of less competent persons for weighing, marking and superintending the discharge of cargoes.

No corresponding advantage can be secured to the farmers by a reduction in the fee, as we are satisfied that the present price does not enhance the cost of the article but to a very trifling extent; the whole charge under the Maryland inspection for weighing inspection, marking &c., is but 30 cents, whilst in New York, Philadelphia, Alexandria and other cities the weighing alone costs much about the same, leaving the purchaser after all without any sufficient guarantee of the accuracy of that weighing, and virtually without any information as to the chemical constituents and of course of the real value of the article he is buying; a want of which knowledge may and does often occasion not only a total loss of the amount paid for the article he purchases, but also a loss of any adequate return for the year's labor and the use of the large capital employed necessarily by farmers, because of the failure of his crops. And further it is well known that since the reduction from 40 cents to 30 cents, by the last Legislature, the importer has ceased to add the inspection fee, or any part of it to the price of the article.

Previous to this reduction 20 cents was added to the price per