

worth either fifty-seven or fifty dollars as they may chance to obtain an article containing fifteen or eighteen per cent. of ammonia in the case of that marked "A," and the same is true in regard to that marked "B."

So in the case of the Mexican guano. No. "A" here includes all that containing from forty to fifty per cent. of phosphate of lime. A cargo containing forty per cent. of phosphate of lime bears the same mark and is sold at the same price as that containing nearly fifty per cent., and the purchaser cannot in either case tell which is the forty per cent. phosphatic guano, from that which is between forty-nine and fifty per cent. To obviate this as far as possible, the name of the ship should be marked on the bag and the dealer required to keep a certified analysis, which the purchaser could inspect at any time.

I have felt it my duty in several of my former Reports to speak of the law for the inspection of guano, and to recommend such modifications of it as would show as nearly as possible the percentage of its valuable constituents. In this I have not been actuated, as some have supposed, by personal ill-will to any of the incumbents who have filled the place of inspector of it, and especially true is this in reference to the incumbent who preceded the present inspector. He carried out the law as was done before his appointment to office, in the mode which custom had confirmed, which the tacit acquiescence of the Legislature had sanctioned, and with fully as much conformity to the law as has been done since, and I have never intended any thing which I have written to be construed into the impeachment of the *integrity* of any one who has ever been connected with that or any other office, but have only insisted on an *exact inspection of all fertilizers* sold in our public markets, without which the farmer and planter has no protection in purchasing them.

The present Report is submitted to your honorable body, under many disadvantages, but should it in any manner advance the interests of those for whom I am appointed to labor, then the object will have been accomplished for which I at first sought and have since remained in the office of State Chemist, and I will not in vain have devoted some of the best years of my life to the fulfilment of its many and arduous duties.

In conclusion, I tender my most sincere acknowledgments to the people of the counties which I have visited for their many acts of kindness and hospitality shown to me, and shall be happy for an opportunity to return them.

JAMES HIGGINS.