

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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14th March 1918

To A. M. G. Soule, Chief, Bureau of Inspection, Agriculture
Re: Fertilizers

. . . Chapter 36, Section 6, R. S., provides as follows:

"Every lot or package of commercial fertilizer which is manufactured, sold, distributed, transported, offered or purposed for sale, distribution or transportation in the state by any person shall have affixed in a conspicuous place on the outside thereof a plainly printed statement clearly and truly giving the number of net pounds in the package; the name or trade mark under which the article is sold; the name and principal address of the manufacturer or shipper, and a chemical analysis stating the minimum percentage of nitrogen, or its equivalent in ammonia in available form, of potash soluble in water, of phosphoric acid in available form, soluble and reverted, and of total phosphoric acid, the constituents to be determined by the methods adopted by the association of official agricultural chemists. . . If the fertilizer is sold in bulk or put up in packages belonging to the purchaser, the seller shall, upon request of the purchaser, furnish the purchaser with a copy of the statements named in this section."

It will be noticed that a package of commercial fertilizer must have affixed to it a chemical analysis showing the amount of certain ingredients, to wit: nitrogen in available form; potash soluble in water, and phosphoric acid in available form. We understand from information furnished by your office that a fertilizer must contain at least one of these ingredients or otherwise the article sold as a fertilizer will have no fertilizing qualities. We also understand from your office that the article known as Nature's Plant Food has no fertilizing qualities at all.

It is our opinion that a package of alleged commercial fertilizer which cannot comply with Chapter 36, Section 6, R.S., except by stating that a chemical analysis shows that it has no nitrogen in available form, no potash soluble in water, and no phosphoric acid in available form, is not entitled to registration as a commercial fertilizer, no matter what the name.

Franklin Fisher
Assistant Attorney General

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