

## THE MAIZE EXPERIMENT.

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### Introduction.

The first experiment to be described was designed to test the use as a complete manure of the rather modern product - fish manure.

There are two possible values of fish manure: it may be useful merely as a supply of mineral nutrients, and thus be worth buying only on a basis of its mineral analysis, particularly its nitrogen content; or it may in addition possess some or all of those characteristics which render farmyard manure or some substitute of a similar nature essential in the maintenance of the fertility of a highly productive field. In the latter case, one would be willing to pay a higher price per unit of nitrogen value for fish manure, or even to buy it for these qualities alone.

Let us first enumerate these "special" characteristics known and supposed to be possessed by organic manures.<sup>(1)</sup> The literature of the subject is somewhat involved, but the following list includes most of the properties which organic manures are thought probably or possibly to possess:-

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(1) Note. The term "organic manure" is used here and throughout in its etymological sense; and therefore synthetic products, such as urea and cyanamide, though chemically "organic", are not included in the category.