

presented to the public service committee before the final business meeting on Friday, June 20, 1952. - Dwight D. Forsyth, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REGULATIONS

In accordance with the adopted policy of the Association that the rules be revised no more often than approximately every five years, the rules committee has taken no steps during the past year toward revision. The committee has requested a place on the program of the Purdue meeting for a fairly thorough discussion of the rules. The discussion might include (a) weaknesses or difficulties experienced in using the current rules, (b) proposals for additions and changes, (c) date of the next desired revision, (d) the place and value of tentative rules and other related problems.

Several suggestions for rule changes have been received from official and commercial analysts. No action has been taken on these proposals but they are being kept on file for future consideration. Some of the proposals are supported by data or reference to published data but some are not supported by data and cannot be approved by the committee. Persons interested in changes in rules should keep in mind that no important changes can be made in the rules unless justified by research data or data accumulated in routine seed testing. This does not exclude minor changes such as change of wording or punctuation to improve the English, or other changes where it is not feasible to obtain research data.

The committee was approached on two occasions to adopt tentative rules as alternate methods where it was felt improved procedures had been developed since the rules were last revised. The committee was unanimous in the view that alternate methods should not be established as tentative rules. The introduction of additional methods where methods are already established would lead to confusion and less uniformity of test results. The rules committee approved the following policy with respect to the place of tentative rules.

1. It would appear satisfactory to make annual additions to the Tentative Rules where only additional kinds of seeds are being included. However, when an existing rule is being changed, it would seem to leave analysts at a loss to know whether to follow the tentative rule or the current official rule. It is doubtful that one would be justified in instructing analysts to follow some tentative rule that may have not been adequately tested in lieu of an official rule.

2. Some laboratories testing for regulatory purposes must follow the rules established for use in the administration of the Federal Seed Act. Since these rules are established by Government regulation, it is not likely that Federal laboratories could deviate from them in favor of tentative rules adopted by the Association of Official Seed Analysts. This, within itself, would cause considerable confusion.

The Association of Official Agricultural Chemists formerly designated its rules as "Official" and "Tentative." The chairman of the rules committee investigated the policy of that Association and learned that the AOAC has discontinued the use of the designation "Tentative" but uses the designation "First Action" instead. The chairman of the AOAC rules committee informed your chairman that court cases had been lost because of tentative rules which was the basis for changing the designation.

At the Guelph meeting, the Association authorized the reprinting of 1,000 copies of the Rules for Testing Seeds. Prior to printing the rules, the committee corrected the errors that got in prior to and during the 1950 printing. The chairman had an opportunity to review all stencils on which changes in the original rules were made. If it is the wish of the association, the committee will begin a revision of the rules before the next annual meeting. It might be pointed out that additional crops are coming into the agriculture of the United States and perhaps Canada, and rules for testing the seeds of such crops are urgently needed. Among those that have come to the attention of the committee are Guar (*Cyamopsis tetragonolobus*), Kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus*), Ponyfoot (*Dichondra repens*), and several other so-called range grasses. - Oren L. Justice, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The work of the research committee for 1952 has been initiated by the regional chairman and by subcommittee chairmen. The work done by each subcommittee is reported by the chairmen. Following the procedure used the past few years, regional chairmen discussed their programs with the members of their own region who were present at the meeting held in West Lafayette. Only a summary of their work is presented here by regions.

give better results in one laboratory than in another. In other words, the method which gives the highest germination values in one laboratory may not be the method which gives the highest results in another laboratory. Why this should be so in the present study, when the cooperating laboratories were making a special effort to achieve uniformity in methods of testing, is rather difficult to explain. It is probably a result of the accumulated effects of many differences, both large and small, in such things as type of germinator, actual level and constancy of the temperatures maintained, duration of the high and low temperature periods in the alternating temperature method and whether the alternation was slow or sharp, moisture level maintained in tests, relative humidity in germinator as related to rate or drying out of tests, light intensity, personal factors, etc. - E. J. Doyle.

REPORT OF THE STANDARDIZED TEST COMMITTEE

The purpose of the standardized test committee is to clarify already existing rules, to develop uniform standards for the testing of seeds, and to coordinate and unify the Rules for Seed Testing adopted by the Canadian and United States Departments of Agriculture. The stress during the past year has been on work which would expedite necessary changes for greater uniformity in testing and reduction of tedium for seed analysts. The nature of these changes has been in terms of recommendations for reduction in sample size required for purity analysis of certain kinds of seed, establishment of definite standards for weeds or crops, and the clarification of certain rules.

O. L. Justice has completed the "Uniform Classification of Weed and Crop Seeds." This will be published as a contribution to the Handbook.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDIZED TEST COMMITTEE

Rules and Regulations Committee

1. That the "Rules" concerning dodder be changed to read: "Seeds" of dodder which are fragile (frequently enlarged) or ashy gray to creamy white in color shall be classed as inert.

2. That the "Rules" concerning noxious weed seeds be changed to read as follows: "The determination of the number of seeds, bulblets, or tubers of individual noxious weeds present per unit weight should be made on at least the minimum quantities listed in Table I with the following exceptions:

If in a half gram 16, in one gram 23, or in more than one gram 30 or more noxious weed seeds, bulblets or tubers of one species are found in the pure seed analysis, the occurrence of that species in the remainder of the bulk need not be noted.

3. That a definition of pure seed be established for vegetables.

4. Correct footnote 1 and 4 to Table I of the "Rules" in accordance with the interpretation given page 48 of the November issue (Vol. 25 No. 4) A. O. S. A. News Letter. The footnotes would then read 1/ Pure seed unit consists of spike or spikelet--each with at least one caryopsis, or free caryopsis, 4/ Pure seed unit consists of spike, spikelet, or floret--each with at least one caryopsis, or free caryopsis.

5. That the number of grams used for the purity analysis of Crested wheat grass, standard (*Agropyron desertorum*) be reduced from 10 grams to 5 grams.

6. That the size of sample used for the parity analysis of the Pensacola strain of Bahia grass be reduced from 10 to 5 grams.

7. That when three replicates of a germination test are concordant and one is out of line, the median of the four replicates may be reported.

8. For further study - Permit the reporting of germination results based on 200 seeds, particularly when 200 seeds have been germinated by two or more methods.

Research Committee, - for further study.

1. That empty attached florets of oats need not be removed in the purity analysis.

2. That a standard be established as a working basis for the classification of weed "seeds" as weeds or inert. This committee feels that an over-all statement cannot be prepared but that each kind of weed seed must be evaluated separately.