

ideas from other sources? We know that to keep abreast of the technical developments in seed testing, we must have the help of other laboratories. Why should we be anymore self-sufficient in our public relations work? The problem is, how can we tap the reservoir of ideas and material which exists in the files of the seed laboratories?

Perhaps we need a committee member from each laboratory or better yet, if each laboratory will assume the responsibility for a small part of the work of the committee, then the projects attempted and the work accomplished should be of more value to each and everyone of us. - Dwight D. Forsyth, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REGULATIONS, 1951

The report for 1950 indicates that the committee on rules and regulations has taken the stand that the rules for seed testing should not be revised more often than approximately every five years. Since the rules were revised in 1949 and became effective 1950, the committee has taken no steps during the current year to revise the rules. However, information has been submitted from time to time by official and commercial analysts suggesting changes and additions. These suggestions are being kept on file and when it is deemed desirable to take definite steps toward revision, these suggestions will be given consideration.

The chairman of the rules committee prepared an article, which was published in the News Letter, setting forth the contributions which commercial seed analysts may make in the revision of the rules. Briefly it was pointed out that commercial analysts are permitted to take the same part in development of the rules as official analysts with the exception that they are not permitted to participate in the business meeting at which time the rules are adopted. Methods by which the rules may be revised were also discussed. This article was approved by all members of the rules committee and the officers of the Association.

Owing to differences in interpretation of insect-damaged seeds, the rules committee in 1950, recommended that the committee on standardized tests clarify the rules with respect to the so-called one-half seed rule. As a result of this suggestion analysts in the Federal laboratory at Beltsville were requested to prepare a set of instructions intended to clarify the rule and to publish the instructions in the News Letter. An article was prepared by Harriet Cull and O. L. Justice and approved by the rules committee, the standardized test committee, officers of the Association and officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists. These instructions should be regarded as official until the matter is clarified in the rules.

The rules committee should like to receive guidance from the Association with respect to the approximate date another revision of the rules should be undertaken. The significance of this request is illustrated by the fact that the Secretary-Treasurer had on hand June 15, 1951, approximately 130 copies of the rules. It is obvious that these copies will not fill the future demand for a very long period. The publisher still has on hand the lithograph plates which were used in setting up the rules. We understand that the rules can be duplicated at a reasonable cost. There were several printer's errors in the last revision of the rules which should be corrected. It is likely that the cost of the plates will increase in proportion to the number of corrections made. It is understood that the publisher will probably dispose of the lithograph plates soon after July 1, 1951. The rules committee recommends that the Association have 1000 copies of the rules reprinted after the more obvious errors have been eliminated.

In the 1950 report, it was recommended that each laboratory keep a record of suggested changes and additions to the rules so that these will be readily available for future revision. The committee again wishes to stress the importance of this suggestion and calls it to the attention of both official and commercial analysts. - O. L. Justice, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Soon after taking office last year, President Kanipe suggested a clarification of the organization and functions of the research committee.

The general features of President Kanipe's plan were approved by the executive committee with certain criticisms and suggestions. With these in mind, the research committee chairman prepared the statement of the organization and functions of the research committee given in the October, 1950 issue of the News Letter. By following this plan, the re-

<u>Pure Seed</u>	<u>Inert added</u>
96%	4%
94	6
92	8

5. Distribute at random four samples of each of the three quality levels (twelve samples or one each month) to each laboratory within the Region. A summary of the results may then be analyzed because a sample with an absolute value has been replicated in all laboratories, and we are not forced to make comparisons with a mean that may be affected by extreme observations reported by some laboratories.

The four samples distributed for this study did not have a known quality, and the reported results were not the result of replicated tests. Measuring variation with the tolerance tables is too liberal to detect variation due to laboratory procedures only. Enforcement tolerances were designed to allow for the expected variation in tests, and allow for the additional variation arising from different samples of the same lot of seed which different laboratories are required to test. If this committee prepares and distributes small well-mixed samples of a known composition as described above, the variation due to replicate samples of a lot is minimized and measured by the replication. Excessive variation in individual observations can then be attributed directly to laboratory procedure."

The committee will recommend to the business session that this work be continued next year, that the samples be prepared and distributed as outlined above and that the results be reported to the next convention by key number. - E. Robertson, Chairman.

REPORT OF STANDARDIZED TESTS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the standardized tests committee was held on June 25th. Discussion of the progress to date regarding the standardized blotter recommended by this committee revealed that Ames Powercount Company had expressed interest in retailing this blotter. E. Erickson was invited to sit in with the committee before the meeting-proper started, so that certain matters relating to the supply and handling of these blotters could be clarified. He requested that an expression of opinion be sought from the general meeting as to:-

1. Who would be purchasing blotters in the near future and would be interested?
2. Who would be interested in purchasing the new blotters when their present supplies were exhausted?

(This expression of opinion was called for at the meeting and resulted in 16 members indicating that they were interested in Point 1, and 31 in Point 2.)

(Analysts were invited to indicate the sizes of blotters they preferred on a sheet of paper provided for the purpose at the Ames Powercount exhibit.)

The revision of the U.S.D.A. seed list, published in 1935, was considered, and O. L. Justice announced that the revision of the botanical names would soon be completed, after which revision of common names will be undertaken.

The standard list of crop and weed plants has now been completed, and is ready to be put out as a Handbook contribution.

A suggestion regarding the analysis of sweet clover for mottled seed was considered, but no recommendation is being made at the present time since the Federal Seeds Act requires a quantity of 5 gms. to be analysed for this purpose.

The committee agreed on the following recommendations:-

1. That D. Isely's procedure for the separation of Bromus secalinus and B. commutatus be accepted.
2. That the U.S.D.A. procedure for sweet Sudan grass be accepted.
3. That U.S.D.A. photographs of abnormal sprouts, both towel or blotter and soil, on the following species be accepted: Artichoke, beet, bird-foot trefoil, cabbage, cardoon, carrot (blotters only), cotton, cucumber, frosted oats, okra, peanut, radish, rice, squash, velvet bean, and that the photographs of lettuce be accepted until the special sub-committee on lettuce seed germination is prepared to present a report.- C. W. Leggatt, Chairman.

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON TRAINING SEED ANALYSTS

In the spring of 1950, officials of the American Seed Trade Association arranged for