

To the Honourable

The Minister of Agriculture.

Sir,—I beg to submit for your approval Bulletin 49 of the Experimental Farm series on 'The Potato and its Culture,' which has been prepared under my direction by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist.

The potato crop is everywhere one of great importance to the community. In this bulletin there are presented in convenient form the results gained through a long course of experiments, regarding the quality, productiveness and general usefulness of the best sorts of potatoes which have been under trial. The best methods of preparing the land for this crop, of planting and cultivating are fully explained; particulars are also given as to the most successful remedies which have been adopted for the destruction of the injurious insects which attack this plant and for the diseases which affect the vines and tubers.

The ease with which new varieties of potatoes are produced from seed has resulted in the origination during the past few years of a large number of new sorts. All those of special promise have been tested, and their relative merits compared, especially as regards their productiveness, quality and earliness of maturing. During the past twenty-three years over 1,000 varieties have thus been carefully tried, and all those of an inferior character discarded. This epitome of the work which has been carried on at the Experimental Farms with the potato is but an example. Similar work has been done with all the more important farm crops.

It is hoped that the information given in this bulletin will serve as a useful guide to farmers and gardeners in all parts of this country, and by indicating the most productive and desirable sorts of potato to plant, will lead to a large increase in the average crop, an improvement in the quality of the tubers produced, and that thus increased profits may be realized by the growers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. SAUNDERS,

*Director of Experimental Farms.*

OTTAWA, April 1, 1905.

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