

The increase in the number of experimenters in agriculture can be seen from the following figures, which show the average yearly number actually engaged in the work in each of four eight-year periods:

Periods.	Years.	Average number of Experimenters per Annum.
1886-1893.....	8	315
1894-1901.....	8	2,608
1902-1909.....	8	3,882
1910-1917.....	8	4,282

The total number of distinct tests made throughout the Province, in agriculture alone, during the past thirty-two years has been 88,604. The number of experimenters in the past year was 4,299. Even though labor is exceptionally scarce at the present time, the number of experimenters in the past year was greater than that of the previous year. The farmers seem particularly anxious to secure pure seed of the best varieties of farm crops as foundation material, and to keep in touch with the most improved methods of crop production.

Since our last meeting, co-operative experiments have been conducted throughout Ontario with varieties of farm crops, quantities of seed per acre, mixed grains for grain production and for fodder, the application of commercial fertilizers, the eradication of weeds, the testing of cattle for tuberculosis, the re-forestation of waste places, etc.

The past three years have been abnormal for crop production in Ontario. There was an exceptionally large amount of rainfall in July and August, 1915, May and June, 1916, and June and July, 1917; in fact, in June and July of the past year there was no less than 13.94 inches of rain on the level, which is a larger amount than that of any two consecutive months in the last eighteen years, according to the records made in the Department of Agricultural Physics at the College.

The farmers of Ontario, to the number of over four thousand, who conducted co-operative experiments upon their own farms in the past year, not only did work of real service for themselves, but also furnished most valuable object lessons and practical results of special importance to the other farmers of the Province. We believe that the influence of this Association will be even greater in the future than it has been in the past. With the present urgent demands of the agricultural community of the Province, the Experimental Union will fill an important place. New lines of enquiry are sure to develop, and will undoubtedly receive the close attention of the various committees appointed to carry forward the active work of the Association in the months and the years which are to follow.

This bulletin contains the report for the past year of the co-operative experiments in agriculture, including certain references to results of experiments conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College, and also of co-operative experiments carried out in former years. It also includes information on Sources of Farm Seed Supply for Ontario, and Practical Suggestions in the Production of Food Materials for the Coming Year, the greater part of which was presented at the annual meeting of the Experimental Union, held at the Agricultural College in January, 1918. This information is issued at an early date, that it might be in time to be of real service to the farmers for the coming season's cropping. The Annual Report of the Experimental Union cannot be printed until a later date.