

of seeds and other work of a similar nature. It is a class of work which, while important in its way, makes no demands upon original powers, and does not call for high scientific capacity. To saddle it upon those who are qualified for work of a high order, is to seriously limit their usefulness and mar such results of scientific value as they may obtain. To divert the appliances of well-equipped stations to such purposes, is to belittle the object of their foundation. It should rather be relegated to separate institutions of a special character, or placed in the hands of a distinct staff. It is probable, however, notwithstanding the short period within which their growth lies, a careful observer will note that, from the first, there has been a decided tendency towards the position first defined and assumed by the more conservative. Men of better capacity are constantly working to the direction of these institutions, as pebbles come to the surface of sand, and with this change there is necessarily less poorly directed effort, with more results which will bear scientific scrutiny, and thus the output is becoming of greater value with each year. Acting as a central bureau, the Department of Agriculture at Washington collects all the valuable material as issued, and publishes it monthly in such a digested form as renders it of direct value to the farmer, with whom rests the final reduction to practice. This may be regarded as the ideal method of bringing the results of scientific inquiry within reach of the farmer of average education and opportunity. It cannot be doubted, however, that the final solution of the difficulties now but too obvious will be satisfactory.

My object in thus bringing out the characteristic features of these institutions in other countries is that we may more clearly understand the particular field which is being cultivated in Canada.

Work on the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa was commenced in 1887. The first report was issued in 1890, followed by a second—the last up to date—in 1891. The Director, Mr. Wm. Saunders, is assisted by a staff of nine chiefs of departments, including an Agriculturist, Horticul-