

To the Honourable
The Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—I beg to submit for your approval Bulletin No. 27, of the Experimental Farm Series, which has been prepared under my direction by Mr. John Craig, Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm.

The rapid extension of strawberry growing has resulted in the production of very large crops of this valuable fruit, especially in the eastern provinces of the Dominion, and almost everywhere strawberries have come into very general use. The ease with which new varieties of this fruit are produced from seed, has resulted in the introduction during the past few years of a large number of new sorts. Facts regarding the quality, productiveness and general usefulness of these as compared with the best of the older varieties are presented in this bulletin in accordance with the experience gained by tests made at the Central Experimental Farm. The best method of preparing the soil and particulars regarding the most successful treatment to secure an abundant crop are fully explained, and remedies suggested for the more common diseases to which the plants are subject.

The fact that this useful fruit can be grown so universally, makes it the more important that practical knowledge as to the best methods of cultivation and the most profitable sorts to grow should be generally disseminated. It is hoped that the information given in this bulletin will aid in encouraging farmers to grow this healthful fruit more generally. Where the use of a plot of ground can be easily had, there seems no good reason why every family should not have an ample supply of strawberries during the warm weather of early summer when such an addition to the diet is most agreeable and healthful.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant.

WM. SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farms.

OTTAWA, June 7th, 1897.