

in Manitoba, one in the Northwest Territories and one in British Columbia.

In choosing these sites an effort was made to have them fairly representative in soil and climate of the larger settled areas in the provinces or territories in which they were placed. In the arrangement of the work such experiments as were most likely to be beneficial to the larger number of settlers were in each case among the first to engage the attention of the officers in charge.

Twenty years have passed since this work was begun and during that time agriculture in Canada has made unprecedented advancement. Investigations and experimental researches have been conducted in almost every line bearing on agriculture and horticulture and a multitude of important facts have been accumulated and given to farmers throughout the Dominion in reports and bulletins. The principles which underlie successful crop-growing have been frequently dealt with and demonstrated. The importance of maintaining the fertility of the land, adopting a judicious rotation of crops, following the best methods of preparing the land, early sowing, choosing the best and most productive varieties and the selection of plump and well-matured seed, all these have been shown to be essential to success.

Through the experimental farms early ripening sorts of grain have been brought from many countries wherever they could be found. While none of those tried have been found equal in quality to the best sorts already cultivated here, the new importations have given early ripening strains, which, by skilful crossing and selecting, have already produced excellent results. Several of the newer varieties of wheat ripen from two to three weeks earlier than some of the well known sorts in cultivation, thus opening up a prospect of considerably extending the wheat area in the Canadian Northwest. Distinct gains have also been made by crossing and selection in other classes of cereals. Varieties of grasses, suited to the needs and conditions prevailing in the Northwest have been experimented with and distributed for test, whereby dairying and stock raising are now becoming easier to conduct and more remunerative. New apples also have been produced by crossing very hardy forms of Siberian crab apples with varieties of apples grown in Eastern Canada. These cross-bred sorts have proved quite hardy at several hundred different points at varying altitudes, and are succeeding in those parts of the Northwest country where ordinary apples are too tender to be successfully grown.

Other lines of original research, chemical, botanical and entomological, have also been followed with great assiduity, while the other branches of agricultural and horticultural work have been carried on