## Communications

## SAMPLES OF CHOICE GRAIN FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF SEED.

To the Editor of The Canadian Bee Journal:

Dear Sir,-By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture another distribution will be made this season of samples of the most productive sorts of grain to Canadian farmers for the improvement of seed. The stock for distribution is of the very best and has been secured mainly from the excellent crops recently had at the branch Experimental Farm, at Indian Head, in the Northwest Territories The distribution this spring will consist of samples of oats, spring wheat, barley, Indian corn and potatoes. The quantity of oats to be sent this year will be four pounds, and of wheat or barley five pounds, sufficient in each case to sow one-twentieth of an acre. The samples of Indian corn and potatoes will weigh three pounds as heretofore. A quantity of each of the following varieties has been secured for this distribution:

Oats—Banner, Wide-Awake, Improved Ligorvo, Waverley, Goldfinder, Abundance and Thousand Dollar.

Wheat-Preston, Red Fife, Percy, Stanley, Huron, Laurel and White Fife.

Barley—Six-rowed—Mensury, Odessa, Mansfield, Claude and Royal, Two-rowed—Sidney, Invincible, Standwell and Canadian Thorpe.

Potatoes- Carman No 1, Early White Prize, Canadian Beauty, Uncle Sam, American Wonder. Bovee, Early Andes and Late Puritan.

Every farmer may apply, but only one sample can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat, barley or potatoes, and applications for more than one sample for one household cannot be entertained. These samples will be sent free of charge through the mail.

Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent in any time before the 1st of March, after which the lists will be closed, so that all the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing. Parties writing should mention the sort or variety they would prefer, with a second sort as an alternative, and should the available stock of both these varieties be exhausted, some other good sort will be sent instead. Those applying for Indian corn or potatoes will please bear in mind that the corn is not available for distribution until March or April, and that potatoes cannot be mailed from here until danger from frost in transit is over.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farms.
Ottawa, December 1st, 1904.

## WHICH HIVE ?

Editor Canadian Bee Journal:

Sir.—At the Bee-keepers' convention recently held at the Granite rink, Toronto, Mr. Hoshal of Beamsville, Ont., gave an ocular demonstration of how to manipulate a Heddon hive (it being no larger than an ordinary section super) from the time of removal from its outside packing in the spring, through all the various experiences of the bee-keepers' harvest, till the bees were fed in the fall and returned once more to their winter cases.

This address was very interesting and instructive, explicit in detail, just the sort of object lesson to be of use to those whom the speaker sought to teach, and highly commendative of the small hive.

Mr. Miller of London strongly endorsed Mr. Hoshal's championship of this hive in a paper on "How to Prevent and Control swarming by the Heddon Hive." This loyal advocacy d the small hive was followed by such utter and unexpected dumbness on the part of advocates of large hives, that the inexperienced bee-keepr, with small hive, who had been almost persuaded by larger apiarists that small hive is only useful to a been keeper to sell bees in," and that he should change his for 12-frame one has been wondering ever since the convention where he is at now.

The only indisputable argument adduced at the convention in favor of large hives, will probably result in a rangements being made for a large hall in which the provincial bee-keepers of 4905 may cluster in comfort.

NOVICE