

experiences were recorded. Indeed certain localities had achieved some reputation, notably Yarmouth Co., N. S., for swede seed and Waterloo Co., Ont., for the more tender kinds. But the growers were handicapped by reverse conditions to those prevailing in Europe,—inexperience, unsuitable machinery and the high price of labour. Cheap land and a suitable soil and climate were redeeming factors.

With a view to overcoming the difficulties, and obtaining special information, experiments extending over a four year period were conducted in Western Ontario under our contract and supervision. Here practically all the different kinds of field root and vegetable seeds were grown in quantity and careful records kept of the various operations. The results of the experiment were quite satisfactory and served as a basis for drawing up a schedule of subventions to growers which were authorized by the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture in 1913. These subventions are paid direct to the grower on the certification of our district officers who are responsible for the inspection of growing seed crops and re-cleaned seed. They are paid on the principal kinds produced and held for seeding in Canada, and amount to about one-eighth of the ordinary retail price which is estimated as sufficient to overcome the disadvantages of production in Canada.

The uncertainty of obtaining foreign supplies during war conditions gave a further impetus to home production. The situation was brought to the attention of the public through the press and likely growers were visited by our district officers who gave instructions as to saving the parent stocks, storing, planting, etc. The work of 165 growers was inspected during the summer of 1915. Many of them grew only sufficient seed

for their own use, but 65 produced seed which passed inspection for subvention. This quantity amounted to 36,400 lbs. The principal kind and approximate amounts were, sugar beet, 23,000 lbs; mangel 8,200; sugar mangel, 1,500; swede, 3,000; radish, 400; garden beet, 350; onion, 350. Fortunately large stocks had been accumulated by our seedsmen which have helped to meet the shortage in European supplies. Production has also been stimulated in the United States, especially in California with its superb climate and extensive irrigated areas.

Canada is well adapted to the growing of these seeds. The cruciferae and other hardy kinds have done exceedingly well in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec while the tender kinds are produced to best advantage in Southern Ontario and British Columbia. Localities which have been proven suitable will be organized as seed centres where only those kinds will be produced which will not cross with each other.

The work in Ontario is now under the immediate direction of Mr. A. McMeans, who is well known from his work in vegetable gardening at the Ontario Agricultural College. Mr. McMeans is also familiar with the work of seed growing as conducted on the best seed farms of the United States. The marketing of homegrown seed has received his special attention and is being solved by obtaining contracts and seed from the seedsmen and placing them with the growers, a practice which is commonly followed in Europe. Similar men are being employed in the other districts.

One of the difficulties encountered is the shortage of stock seed. Small quantities of Danish grown stock seed of mangel and swede were distributed during the past two years. Dr. C. A.