

CONCLUSIONS.

The evidence afforded by the results obtained from the comparative trial plots as given in this bulletin, shows that there are great differences in the relative productiveness of varieties even when grown side by side under similar conditions. It also shows, in that part of the bulletin devoted to the average of crops for a series of years, that this tendency to productiveness is in many instances a fixed quality manifested in the different climates of the Dominion, thus bringing these varieties near the top of the list from year to year. Among those sorts which have a remarkable record for persistent productiveness are the Banner oats, which have given for the past nine years (taking the average of the results obtained at all the experimental farms) 73 bushels 25 lbs. per acre; the Mensury barley, which has averaged for the same period 52 bushels 45 lbs., and the Preston wheat, which has given for nine years an average of 34 bushels 41 lbs. per acre.

Such facts point to the importance to farmers of choosing for seed those sorts which give the heaviest crops, so that farming in Canada may thus be made more profitable.

In this bulletin all the varieties which have been under trial for four or more years, are admitted into the comparative list with those which have been under trial for longer periods. As a result of this arrangement, some of the more promising of the recently introduced sorts have found their way into the lists of the best 12 or the best 6 varieties for weight of crop. It is, however, noteworthy that in most instances the larger part of these lists consists of varieties which have been under trial for 8 or 9 years, and which have maintained their prominence as productive sorts through the whole of that period.

During the past year the number of varieties under test has been reduced by discontinuing those which, after some years' trial, have not come up to a high standard of productiveness, retaining only the newer sorts and the best of the older ones in each case. This reduction in number permits of a more ready selection of varieties and brings out with greater prominence those of the highest excellence.

Provision has been made in connection with the distribution of samples for the improvement of seed (which takes place annually at the experimental farms) to have available considerable quantities of the very best and most productive sorts of cereals; so that any farmer in Canada who applies in good season, before March 1, may obtain a sample. These are sent out free by mail in cotton bags. The sample bags of oats contain 4 lbs., and those of wheat and barley, 5 lbs.: sufficient in each case to sow one-twentieth of an acre. Instructions accompany each sample. In many instances the 4 lbs. of oats, when carefully handled, have produced from 150 to 200 bushels by the end of the second year, showing that with attention and care any farmer may soon provide himself, under this liberal arrangement, with the best and most productive