

ing seed in Centres promises well for the future. The success of a given Centre, however, depends primarily upon the business ability, perseverance and patience of the men concerned. As in most organizations most of the work falls upon the shoulders of the Secretary and the President. Where these men are aggressive and business like success may be looked for; otherwise the prospect is not so bright.

There is a need and an opportunity for many Seed Centres in Canada. These Centres should be scattered widely so that there will always be a certain proportion which will succeed in producing goods of the right quality. Had there been more Seed Centres in Canada, east and west, there would not have been the shortage of first class seed that there is to-day.

Canadian Grown Field Root, Vegetable and Flower Seeds

By George H. Clark, Seed Commissioner, Ottawa, Ont.

THE field root, vegetable and flower seeds used in Canada have been obtained largely from Europe. Mangel and beet seed have come principally from France and Germany, most of our turnip from France and Holland, and carrot from France and Great Britain. Cabbage, cauliflower, celery, parsnip, garden beets and radish are mainly from European stocks. Tomato, onion, cucumber and melon seeds have been produced in Canada to a limited extent but are obtained mostly from the United States. Sweet corn, beans and peas have comprised the bulk of Canadian production. Florists' stocks were principally from Germany.

France and Germany have been called the seed gardens of the world. Seed growing is one specialty of their intensive agriculture which is characterized by the application of skilled direction of cheap labour to extensive land. The growing of field root, vegetable and flower seeds furnishes much suitable employment to women and girls whose services may be procured at 30 to 50 cents per day according to experience and capability. Highly

skilled growers make a specialty of producing stock seed which is sold at very high prices. This serves as foundation stock for ordinary growers and is multiplied extensively, finally passing into the market as commercial seed.

However, much of the commercial seed imported into Canada is of questionable origin. Its quality must depend on the reputation of the grower, weather conditions, and subsequent handling. But aside altogether from the question of vitality, the genuineness of stock, purity of variety and trueness to type are often very inferior. European growers have not been exporting their best stock seeds, and their best commercial seeds are retained for home use. Nor is the quality of seeds imported from the United States superior.

These facts, together with the uncertainty of foreign supply, led the Seed Branch to investigate the possibilities of Canadian production. In addition to small quantities grown experimentally by Dominion and Provincial experiment stations, many individual farmers and gardeners were found to be growing seed in a small way and their