

same time to choose a pure, superior elementary type as the foundation for a better strain, believing as he does with DeVries that our ordinary strains are composed of what the latter calls "a motley mixture of types."

This idea seems to have taken root in the minds of the majority of our scientific breeders of to-day who recognize, in the various methods they have adopted, the underlying principles which have been so ably demonstrated by these men. At the same time there is undoubtedly a very practical advantage in following the simpler practice of selecting fluctuating variations, a practice which the ordinary farmer can easily follow on his own farm.

THE CANADIAN SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION AND ITS WORK.

Realizing the great national importance of the use of "better-bred" seed on the farms of Canada as a whole, and recognizing the fact that much might and should be done by way of producing such seed on the individual farms throughout the country, the promoters of this work, notably Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, took certain steps which led up to the organization of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association as a means of encouraging its advancement.

The basic principle upon which the work of the Association is founded is that the artificial selection of the best seed from the best plants year after year without interruption is likely to result in a definite improvement within the ordinary strain, although the limitations of this method of selection as a means of improvement are recognized.

As to the exact course which is followed by each member of the Association who desires to improve any one or more of his crops through giving special attention to the matter of "breeding" in his seed this in brief is as follows: The grower first decides upon the variety which is likely to do best on his farm. This is done by testing two or three leading varieties in plots under similar conditions for the first year. The next step is to prepare a special area of land of about one-quarter acre in size and to sow thereon a good clean sample of seed of the chosen variety. When the crop on this plot becomes thoroughly ripe the grower goes through the plot with a basket or sack, picking here a head and there a head, his choice being based upon the vigor and general type, first of the mother plant and secondly of the head which it bears. Enough seed is secured by the selection of these specially desirable heads each year to give a sufficient quantity of seed to sow another plot the following year while the remainder of the plot is harvested in the usual way and the seed used for the main crop.