

Experimental Farms

source of satisfaction to the public. The information given as to the best remedies for the destruction of noxious insects and for resisting the inroads made by fungous diseases from which grain, fruit and other crops have suffered much in the past has been much appreciated and the good results obtained from the use of the measures recommended have been very satisfactory to farmers and fruit growers. The subject of noxious weeds has also received much consideration and the best measures pointed out for their subjugation.

Investigations have been made regarding the nutritious constituents in many fodder plants which have been analysed at different stages of their growth to determine the period when these plants may be cut to the greatest advantage. Much valuable information has thus been given to the farmers of Canada from which they have greatly profited. In other lines of chemical research many useful facts have been published, regarding the action of manures, the usefulness of mucks, muds and marls as fertilizing agents, also on the composition of soils in different parts of the Dominion. Much work has also been done by the chemist of the Experimental Farms in determining the quality of well waters used by farmers, and in many instances, existing impurities have been pointed out and thus the dangerous results which so often follow the use of polluted water have in large measure been prevented.

Much information is given each year by all the officers of the staff to the ever increasing number of correspondents, and a still larger circle of farmers receive the reports and bulletins published by the Experimental Farms containing the results obtained from the work in progress in all its branches. Judging from the commendatory letters received the aid thus rendered to the farming community is very much appreciated.

In this brief summary reference has only been made to some of the more prominent features of the work which has been done by the experimental farms during the few years which have elapsed since they were established. The attempt has been made and with much success to carry on useful lines of work in every important branch of agriculture, horticulture and arboriculture, and while the chief aim has been to advance the interests of farming and to make that noble occupation more profitable, other important objects have not been overlooked, encouragement has been given to the cultivation and dissemination of fruits and vines, as well as to the planting of trees, shrubs and flowers so that our people both in town and country might enjoy the healthful luxury of such fruits as our climate will afford and at the same time surround themselves with objects of beauty the study and observance of which will refine their minds and add quiet enjoyment to their lives.