

but owing to the high standards set for Registered Seed the amount of seed which was accepted for registration each year was comparatively low.

In the summer of 1913 a scheme was set on foot to organize what are known as "Seed Centres." Meetings were arranged for by the District Representatives of Agriculture in Ontario in districts believed to be specially suitable for the production of high class seed in their respective counties and farmers were invited to be present with a view to discussing with the Secretary of the Association the feasibility of creating some sort of local organization as a means of having pure seed produced in larger quantities. As a result of these efforts a number of Seed Centres became established. These Centres are composed of actual farmers who have adopted a Constitution and By-laws satisfactory to the Association, and who have agreed to grow a certain variety according to certain prescribed rules. They agree furthermore to obtain their seed when necessary from one of their number who is willing to supply them with first generation Registered Seed at a certain price. By this arrangement the ordinary members of the Centre have no special selection work to do. They simply are required to grow the crop to the best of their ability and to clean up the seed so that it may comply with the standards of the Association. The seed is then handled through the Secretary of the Centre. This means that a Centre may offer several thousand bushels of Registered Seed for sale, whereas formerly there might have been only a single grower in the district offering a few hundred bushels.

THE NORTH GOWER BANNER OAT CENTRE.

One of the first Centres to become organized was the North Gower Banner

Oat Centre. This centre started with a membership of 12 men, each of whom ordered about three bushels of first generation Registered Banner Oats to begin with. This seed was purchased through the Association from Dow Brothers of Gilbert Plains, Man., who have been members of the Association since its inception in 1904. The crop produced from this seed was excellent and proved to the members the undoubted superiority of Registered Seed over ordinary seed. This gave the growers confidence in the enterprise. The superior yield also encouraged the men to see if by better cultivation they could not improve their yields still further. The result of this was shown in a convincing manner in the crop of 1914. About 2,500 bushels of Registered Seed of the crop of 1914 were sold for seed at \$1.00 per bushel. This seed was some of the best that was produced in Canada that year. A considerable quantity was purchased by the Provincial Government of British Columbia for sale to farmers in the province. The season of 1915 was a favourable one and a lot of excellent seed was produced in the Centre, over 5,000 bushels being disposed of at excellent prices.

In this Centre three men carry on the selection work on their farms and supply the other members with the progeny of their selections. In most centres the selection is done by one man but in the North Gower Centre it was found that there were more men who from the beginning considered it an advantage to carry on selection work themselves rather than to depend on getting their supplies from others. This arrangement has its advantage in that at least some one of the three men is practically sure to succeed in producing seed of the proper grade.

The results obtained so far in produc-