

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

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## The Production of Pure Seed in Canada

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CANADA requires approximately 45,000,000 bushels of Seed Grain, Corn and Potatoes, each Spring. The majority of farmers grow their own seed but others have to purchase what they require or at least a part of it, and the total amount actually bought runs into thousands of bushels. Is this seed as good as it might be? Is it as free from weed seeds and as high in vitality as it is possible to get it? Is it as well bred, that is, does it consist of varieties and strains which possess the ability to produce maximum yields? Investigations made by the Dominion Seed Branch and other institutions have shown that neither in purity, vitality or breeding is the average of the seed sown as high as it is easily within the range of possibility to have it. The immense national importance of the use of good seed is at once apparent. With the enormous acreage now under cultivation an increased yield of only 5 bushels per acre would mean an added revenue to the country of several millions of dollars.

Many agencies are at work throughout Canada with a view to encouraging a greater interest in the production and use of better seed. Possibly one of the most effective organizations concerning itself with this problem at the present time is the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This organization consists of actual farmers who are endeavoring to grow crops so that at least a part of what they produce may be specially suitable for

seeding purposes. These farmers, after applying for membership in the Association, secure the very best possible seed as foundation stock. They then adopt a system of selection and propagation by means of which the succeeding progeny of the seed for three successive generations may be recognized officially as what is known as "Registered Seed" providing the purity, vitality and quality are up to a certain high standard. Registered Seed is given wide publicity through the Agricultural Press and by means of a seed catalogue which is published and distributed during the early winter. In this and other ways the actual producer and farmer who wishes to purchase seed are brought together.

The system of registration adopted corresponds in principle with the system followed in the registration of live stock. The importance of registering new sorts and of seeing that these are propagated in pure condition and sold under a certain form of guarantee is obvious.

### SEED CENTRES.

Previous to 1913 members of the Association worked independently of one another, and were very widely scattered. This situation made the inspection of growing fields as well as the inspection of threshed seed expensive. It also resulted in an inadequate supply of the kind of seed which the buying public is now looking for more and more. It is true that a goodly number of members were operating,