

SUMMARY.

The results obtained from the uniform trial plots as given in this bulletin show that there are marked differences in the relative productiveness of varieties even when grown side by side under similar conditions. The results of the average crops obtained for five years indicate also that the tendency to productiveness is in many instances persistent, manifesting itself under varying conditions of soil and climate to a remarkable degree. The establishment of such facts points to the importance of farmers choosing for seed those varieties which give the heaviest crops, so that farming in Canada may thus be made more profitable.

In this bulletin the arrangement of the matter has been modified so as to present in a more prominent way the average figures of a test of five years, the results of the current year occupying a more subordinate position. The plan adopted in this issue shows at a glance the relative position, in regard to productiveness, of all the varieties which have been under trial for five years.

During the past year the number of varieties under test has been further reduced by dropping some of those which have failed to come up to the high standard required. This reduction in the number tested will serve to give greater prominence to those varieties of the highest excellence.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES OF SEED GRAIN.

Provision has been made in connection with the annual distribution of samples for the improvement of seed to have available considerable quantities of the very best and most productive sorts, so that every farmer in Canada who applies in good season (before March 1) may obtain a sample of such sort as he may desire; but only one sort can be sent to each applicant. These samples are sent free by mail, in cotton bags, the spring wheat and barley in quantities of 5 lbs. each and oats in bags containing 4 lbs. each, enough in each case to sow one-twentieth of an acre. Instructions accompany each sample. In many instances the 5-lb. samples of wheat and barley have, when properly cared for, produced, by the end of the third season, from 100 to 200 bushels of grain, while in the case of oats such quantities have been available by the end of the second season, showing that with proper attention any farmer, under this liberal provision, may soon provide himself with the best and most productive strains of seed in sufficient quantities to sow a large area, at no cost to himself beyond his own labour.

That the farmers of this country avail themselves of this liberal arrangement is evident from the fact that the number of samples now supplied to individual applicants amounts to from 35,000 to 40,000 each year, and the demand is increasing. A steady improvement is taking place in the quality of the cereals produced in this country as well as a large increase in the output, results which are believed to be in large measure due to the more general cultivation of improved and more productive sorts brought about by these annual distributions.