

duce the best sample for the market we must consider a few other things in order to secure the highest quality. Generally speaking, the seed that is used throughout the province is not pure in variety, consequently some of the plants ripen earlier than others with the result that the colour of the sample is not uniform. Again, some of the plants take longer to mature, and if the field is cut when the average plant is fit to harvest the miniature plants yield shrunken grains. It is apparent, therefore, that we require a seed pure in variety. This is exceptionally hard to secure and very often we may have to use the seed we have until we are able to procure or purchase seed that is pure in this respect.

The production of seed pure in variety is interesting, as well as profitable and the average farmer who does not wish to purchase a high priced seed can, if he chooses, improve his own grain by careful selection. The plan outlined by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association is an easy one to follow. Selecting the best heads of one type or variety out of the crop on one's own farm makes the procuring of good seed less costly than any other method. Enough seed should be selected in this way to sow a quarter of an acre or more. From the matured crop on that quarter of an acre enough to sow another quarter of an acre should be selected and the balance can be sown as the general crop on the farm. The product of the third selection in this way will be eligible for registration if it has been examined and favorably reported on by one of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association inspectors. Those who wish to follow this work should write the secretary of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, department of agriculture, Ottawa, for further particulars. This work will seem rather tedious to some who have not taken into consideration the advantages to be gained by following it. But when we realize that plants have individual characteristics such as stiff straw, heavy yielding, and rust resisting qualities, and that these are transmitted from generation to generation, we early come to the conclusion that we may improve the yield and quality of our farm crops by the simple if tedious operation of selection. Much can be done along the line of increasing the yield, improving the quality, strengthening the straw and shortening the ripening period. Individual plants prove this. I have noted a variation of several hundred grains in the yield of individual plants growing under similar conditions. This shows us definitely that they have special yielding qualities, which by selection may be taken advantage of by every farmer.

Quality Important.

In purchasing seed it is well to take into consideration the quality of the variety as well as the yield. Some varieties have weak straw and consequently are apt to lodge. Others are more subject to disease and still others take longer to mature. Good straw and heavy yielding qualities are important considerations, but there is in wheat one of still more importance—the variety should be one that produces a high grade of flour, a grade that the market demands. In purchasing a new variety great care should be exercised to see that it has as many of the good qualities and as few of the nondesirable ones as possible. I know of a certain mill that was almost forced out of business, simply because it happened to be in a district where there was wheat that looked good but gave a dark flour and was consequently not in demand.