

economic plants, shrubs and trees and, on the other, with plant pathology which concerns the diseases which attack vegetation.

In the former section the Dominion Botanist gives careful study to newly introduced weeds and others that by reason of serious prevalence or persistent habits threaten the crop production of a vicinity. Besides communicating helpful information to correspondents who send specimens, or report the presence in their crops, of special weeds, occasion is taken to warn farmers in certain districts, threatened by the invasion of weeds, which may result in serious consequences. To this end posters of warning showing specimens in natural colours are widely distributed in sections likely to be injured.

This Division co-operates with the Health of Animals Branch in identifying and suppressing plants that by reason of their poisonous properties endanger the health of farm animals. Study is given also to plants that may possess economic properties for manufacturing, medicinal or other commercial purposes.

In the work of plant pathology this Division exercises a far reaching benefit in the study of plant diseases. Study is given to diseases of cereal, fruit and vegetable crops as well as of forest trees. A constant vigilance is maintained in order to prevent the introduction of diseases new to the country. In cases of dangerous introductions these are dealt with by regulations made under the Destructive Insect and Pest Act to prevent the importation or distribution of infected vegetable matter. Besides this all reasonable means are taken to warn the public of possible danger from threatening plant maladies. Plant diseases are studied partly in the pathological laboratory and partly in the field and pathological greenhouse. Amongst the diseases at present under investigation may be mentioned silver leaf of fruit trees, scab and rhizoctonia disease of potatoes, smut diseases of grains and several others.

The spacious and richly planted botanic gardens and arboretum of the Central Farm have been placed in charge of the Dominion Botanist. Their scenic beauty and situation well serve as a centre for botanical study. Together with a well classified large herbarium of the Flora of Canada exceptional opportunities are thus placed at the disposal of the scientific student and interested public.

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