SUMMARY.

The particulars presented in this bulletin, show the importance of choosing the most prolific and vigorous growing varieties for seed. They also afford further proof that the tendency to great productiveness in certain sorts, is to a large extent fixed and permanent. As an example the twelve varieties of oats which are listed in this bulletin, as having given the largest average crops, at all the experimental farms for the past four years, includes ten of those given last year as the best for three years. Further in comparing these two lists of the best twelve sorts of oats, for each experimental farm, we find this year at Ottawa ten out of the former twelve, at Nappan ten of the twelve, at Brandon eleven of the twelve, at Indian Head ten of the twelve and at Agassiz nine of the twelve. A careful scrutiny of the lists of the other sorts of grain will afford further evidence along this line.

The variations between the largest and smallest crops, in the uniform test plots on the Central Experimental Farm while not quite so marked in 1898 as they were in 1897, are still very large. In the oats the crops range from 89 bushels 14 lbs. to 42 bushels 12 lbs.; in the two-rowed barley from 55 bushels 20 lbs. to 31 bushels 10 lbs.; in the six-rowed barley from 58 bushels 16 lbs. to 33 bushels 16 lbs.; in the spring wheat from 31 bushels 15 lbs. to 15 bushels, and in the pease from 46 bushels 50 lbs. to 20 bushels.

These facts should induce farmers every where to pay more attention to the selection of the most promising sorts for seed. Any of those varieties which are among the twelve which have given the best average crops for the past four years may be sown with the confident expectation of a good crop, provided the season is fairly favourable, and the general use of these more productive sorts for seed, would soon raise the average yield of the Dominion several bushels, which would add some millions of dollars yearly, to the receipts of the farming community in Canada.