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W. WELD, PROPRIETOR.

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Editorial.

The Central Experimental Farm.

When attending the meetings of the Dominion Dairymen's and Horticultural Associations at Ottawa we visited the Central Experimental Farm. The snow was deep and the day very cold, so that we could not judge as to the quality of the land. The farm contains 465 acres, and is situated in the Township of Nepean, 2½ miles from the Parliament buildings, to the south-west of the city, commanding a full view of Ottawa with her splendid public buildings. The various houses and farm buildings on the farm are built in a very tasteful and attractive manner. This is as it should be, as the farm is situated so near the Capital that visitors from all nations will be attracted there. It is very important that the place shall not only be very practical, but beautiful as well. It is of national importance that it shall be so, not only this, but the gentlemen in charge of the various departments must be the best qualified in every particular that can be obtained; they must be practical as well as educated. So far Mr. Saunders has been successful in filling the various departments with men of the highest order.

The following is the list of officers of the Central Experimental Farm:—William Saunders, Director; Jas. W. Robertson, Agriculturist; John Craig, Horticulturist; James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist; Frank T. Shutt, Chemist; John Fixter, Farm Foreman; Wm.

W. Blair, Supt. Experimental Farm, Nappan, for the Maritime Provinces; S. A. Bedford, Supt. Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba; A. Mackay, Supt. Experimental Farm, Indian Head, N. W. T.; Thos. A. Sharpe, Supt. Experimental Farm, Agassay, B. C.

On visiting the barn and stables we found the stock in splendid condition. At present there are 15 horses, and 56 head of cattle, viz., 17 Short-horns, 8 Jerseys, 10 Holsteins, 6 Polled Angus, 11 Ayrshires and 4 Grades. The stock have the appearance of being well taken care of and properly fed. The stables and inmates were scrupulously clean.

In the poultry house 19 varieties are being tested. We found everything here in good order, but we did not admire some of the birds that had been selected.

Leaving the stables we found the greenhouse very interesting. The department set apart for testing the varieties of seed grain would first attract a farmer's attention. Last year nearly 1,000 samples were tested, which were sent from all parts of the Dominion. Any farmer may send samples post free of any grain or seeds. They should be addressed to Prof. Saunders, and need not exceed two ounces in weight. Their vitality will be tested and a correct answer returned the sender in two weeks from time of receiving the package. This year they have tested and reported to farmers in the various Provinces on samples of various kinds of grain and seed. In 1889 the germinating qualities of the grain varied from 25 to 97 per cent. Eight varieties of poplars have been tested, six Russian and two American. Mr. Saunders thinks the Russian varieties promise much for the colder and drier sections of the Northwest, where they are so much needed. Their habits of growth, foliage and quality of the wood is much better than the native kinds. These new sorts have been tested in Manitoba and the Northwest. When we were in Ottawa the department was preparing to send out thousands to various sections where required. They were then endeavoring to find the best mode of propagating the different sorts. This they will make known to the public at an early date. The greenhouse will be used during the summer months as a place in which to cross fertilize corn in order to produce improved, hardy and early varieties. The Squaw corn is the only variety yet tested, which ripens every year in Manitoba and the Northwest. This is a very small, dwarfish sort, yielding small ears of various colors. By skilful treatment during the last few years it has been greatly improved in growth of ear and stalk, also in the quality of both. As improved it may be considered a fair yielding

variety. It may now be expected to produce 40 bushels per acre of good corn, while its earliness and hardiness has been in no way impaired. The distribution of new varieties of the various cereals has been very large this year, 8,500 packages having been sent. The distribution is still going on, and extends from the Pacific to the Atlantic.

At the Central Farm last year they tested 99 varieties of spring wheat and 8 of fall wheat, 60 barley, 86 oats, 6 rye, 5 peas, 6 turnips, and 394 varieties of potatoes; also a very large number of varieties of fruits. Of these we hope to tell our readers much in the near future.

The quantity of ensilage put into the silo was about 200 tons, consisting entirely of fender corn, mainly Southern Sweet, Giant Prolific, Southern Ensilage and Red Cob Ensilage. The cattle were fed on the following ration:—25 lbs. ensilage, 20 lbs. roots, 10 lbs. oat straw, 4 lbs. bran and 2 lbs. provender (this latter consists of four-fifths oats and one-fifth peas). This mixture is fed in the proportion of 6 lbs. to the hundred live weight, and costs about 16 cents a day for a cow weighing 1,000 lbs. The horses are fed on cut hay and ground oats, mixed together and moistened. The larger animals, weighing 1,500 lbs. to 1,600 lbs.; receiving 14 lbs. hay and 12 lbs. oats; the smaller horses, 1,300 lbs. to 1,400 lbs., 12 lbs. hay and 12 lbs. oats.

Our Circulation.

The addresses of our contributors this month will show to all how widespread our circulation is. No less than four articles were received from England, one from Vermont, one from Quebec, several from the Maritime Provinces; Ontario, Manitoba, and the Western Territories send their quota. Our Manitoba and Western edition is increasing in circulation and influence much faster than we had even hoped. The Ontario and Eastern edition is also making rapid progress.

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