

be constantly examined, in case organic matter, that would decompose and spoil the water, accumulated.

FODDERS.

In fodders we have had twenty-one samples sent us. These comprise specimens of the bulky fodders, such as grass and corn, and also of concentrated fodders, including meals and grains of various kinds. The remaining fifteen samples include a variety of substances of a miscellaneous character connected with agriculture; dairy and food products, insecticides and fungicides. Useful work for the departments of entomology and horticulture has been done, which greatly assists in combating insect and fungous foes to fruit. Many interesting points in the chemistry of Bordeaux mixture and ammoniacal copper carbonate combined with insecticides have been worked out in our laboratories. The conclusions arrived at from our experiments will be of service to fruit growers.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONVENTIONS.

I should not bring my remarks to a close without mentioning the increase in the number of correspondents that has marked the past year. I spoke at the outset of the increased interest taken in the work of the experimental farms by the farmers in general. Perhaps one of the best indications I can give you of that ever growing interest, is in the matter of correspondence. Inquiries are now received from farmers in all parts of the Dominion, on all matters relating to agriculture, soils, fertilizers, cattle food and so on, so that I suppose nearly one-third of my time is now occupied in answering by letter questions upon such things. It seems to have become widely known that the experimental farm is a sort of bureau of information which can be applied to free of all cost. It is scarcely necessary to add that we are not always able to give definite answers to the questions which are sent to us. That of course would be impossible for any one to do, but the best is done under the circumstances, and I am convinced that in very many instances material help has been afforded by the suggestions made. Several of the large dairymen's convention and farmers' institutes have been addressed. In this meeting and discussing with farmers, personally, matters of interest to them, we have one of the surest and best methods of disseminating not only agricultural truths in general, but the result of our experiments at the farms. For this reason, I look upon this work as one of considerable importance and value.

CEREALS AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

I would very briefly refer to the fact that last year I acted as expert juror on the cereals at World's Columbian Exposition. This work was undertaken by me at the instigation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, my appointment being made through the nomination of Sir Henry Trueman Wood, secretary to the Royal Commission of Great Britain. At Chicago I assisted in the analyses of over 500 samples of grain, including wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, rye, pease, &c. Many of these samples came from Canada, but the collection included specimens taken from all over the world. I regret very much that as yet the awards have not been published. The importance of my work, in this connection, will be apparent when you learn that the basis upon which the awards were made took into consideration the composition, as arrived at by chemical analysis, as well as the ordinary physical data, such as colour, weight per bushel, &c. I am very sorry that these results have not yet been made known, but I learnt the other day from Washington, that all our data were being collected, and will soon be published in bulletin form. A certain number of these bulletins will be at my disposal, and when they come to hand, it will be found that the results corroborate the favourable impression we have regarding the value of our Canadian cereals, and more particularly of the wheat of Manitoba and the North-west Territories.

This bulletin will be of great commercial value to us, because it will show that we can compete most favourably with the best grain countries in the world, and it also will be of great scientific value, inasmuch as it will show the effects of climate