



Team of imported Clydesdale mares, winners at the Gait Horse Show; first draught team, first for single draught and first and second in class for age. Owned by A. Aitchison, Guelph, Ont. Imported by T. H. Hassard, Millbrook, Ont.

Central Experimental Farm Visited

In the Ottawa Valley section the spring season is usually from two to three weeks later in opening up than in central and western Ontario. But this year is an exception to this rule. To our surprise when visiting in that district about the middle of the month we found vegetation as far advanced at Ottawa as in Toronto, or any point west of here. The reason is that that part of the province has been favored with better growing weather and more favorable conditions for seeding operations.

Situated as it is in this highly favored section, the Central Experimental Farm is looking exceptionally well. At the time of our visit it presented a most attractive appearance, the trees and shrubbery looked their best, and the fields indicated a bountiful harvest a few weeks hence. In general appearance, the Farm has greatly improved in recent years. The ornamental trees and shrubbery have reached a large growth and give a picturesqueness to the landscape that is most effective. It is indeed a delightful spot on a bright June morning, and one would gladly linger longer did not other duties compel a hastening on.

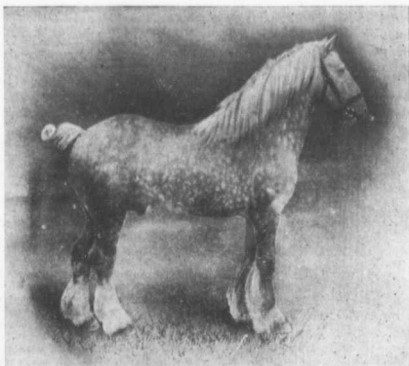
The work of the Farm has settled down to a somewhat regular routine each year though none the less effective on that account. Correspondence has greatly increased, and the number of inquiries for information and help on a great variety of farm topics, prevent the staff from undertaking much new experimental work each year. However, some new experiments are undertaken each year and the results published in the annual report. The Director, Dr. Saunders, has this year undertaken some important work in testing the different grades and varieties of wheat as to the quality of flour they will produce. This is much needed. Every grade and variety of wheat will not make the same quality of flour, and consequently of bread. It is most important, therefore, that the exact properties of each in this respect should be known and the results published. The experiment might, perhaps, be more conclusive, if the flour of each grade or kind were made into bread.

One of the most important and far-reaching pieces of work carried on is that of producing hardy varieties of fruit for the North-West. This work was begun several years ago and is now beginning to bear fruit. These hardy trees have, for the most part, been produced by crossing the Siberian Crab with the apple (mostly Russian varieties). Over 100 of these trees are now fruiting and there should be some reliable data forthcoming shortly. These trees are allowed to grow with little or no pruning, as it is not considered advisable to do much pruning in a cold climate. A great many of these hardy varieties have been sent from the Central Farm to the West to be tested. They have been planted at various elevations, ranging from 400 feet, at Winnipeg, to over 4,000 at the Rocky Mountains, and reports generally indicate that they have wintered well. The Central Farm is strong in Hor-

ticulture. Under W. T. Macoun's direction some valuable work is being conducted in this department. The fruit trees on the Farm, as elsewhere, suffered much from the past severe winter and consequently a great many of the less hardy varieties will have to be dug up. It is, perhaps, a case of the survival of the fittest, and those left will have shown themselves to be the ones that will give growers in the colder parts of the country the best service. Mr. Macoun has been experimenting largely this season with the hairy vetch as a cover crop for orchards. Though not conclusive, the work so far shows that this plant may lessen the need for cultivating the orchard every season. It has the properties of conserving as much moisture in the soil as it gives off and should prove most valuable to orchardists as a cover crop. Most of the fruit trees have low heads. This gives ease in gathering fruit, the fruit does not blow off so easily, and the trees are better protected. A most interesting spot in the orchard of the Farm is "Wealthy". It is "Wealthy" in more than name. The orchard was planted in 1896, the trees being very close together, or 436 trees to an acre. Fruit bearing began in 1899. In 1902 the average net returns for each of the preceding four years was \$121 per acre. In 1902, 250 barrels per acre were sold off this orchard.

Mr. Macoun is carrying on a very practical test in growing vegetables under canvas, the main object being to keep off insects and other pests. So far, it has proven most successful, and vegetables of all kinds grown under canvas were much farther advanced and of much more rugged growth than those planted at the same time outside. And what is more, not a worm or pest of any kind was to be seen. In the Experimental Farm report for 1903, full particulars of this work for last year are given. It will pay everyone interested in garden work to look this up. In 1903, an enclosure 62x16 feet, and 6½ feet high, covered with cheesecloth, was built for a total cost of \$23.98. As such an enclosure will last for several years, Mr. Macoun estimates the net cost for one year at \$7.09. Considering the possibilities of growing vegetables under canvas, this is not a high figure.

Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, intends conducting a series of experiments this season with the various



Three-year-old shire stallion Moulton William 21657, a prize winner in England. Imported and owned by Messrs. Bowden & McDonald, Exeter, Ont.