

seeds and provides standards of purity in these goods, and also fixes penalties for those who wilfully make gain out of the distribution of bad seed. This work involves a whole staff of inspectors and administrators, many of whom travel extensively within the Dominion, for the law must be enforced not only at headquarters but in every corner of Canada in which farming is carried on. This part of the system is carried out with thoroughness and with a minimum of friction. A mere description of it would lack interest, but, did space permit, many good stories could be told of the experiences of the men who administer this most important law.

All the officers of the Branch are not at Ottawa. There are district offices at Truro, N. S. ; Winnipeg, Man. ; Regina, Sask ; Calgary, Alta ; and through these agencies much important work is done. An idea of the extent of the operations of the Branch as a whole is conveyed in the fact that last year 6,396 samples of seed were tested, about half of them for farmers, the others being for seed dealers. In the year of the frosted wheat, in the West, when special care had to be exercised in regard to the seed to be sown, the samples of seed examined numbered no less than 13,000 or double the normal business. Yet all the work is carried on with a despatch which any private corporation might emulate. The Branch has the proud record, for instance, of having made return within twenty-four hours from receipt of every sample of seed received for examination as to purity. Germination tests must await the slower working of nature's laws, but, so far as the work of the Branch is concerned, there has been absolutely no loss of time. When a seedsman has a carload of seed awaiting acceptance or a farmer delays his seeding to have an official test made, time is of the very essence of the business and the promptness of the returns sent out by the Branch must be highly appreciated. And, owing to the irregularity with

which, in the nature of things, the work is brought to the Branch, this promptness means extremely hard work at times for the staff employed. For, of course, with work involving skill and special care, it is not possible to double the staff to meet a special rush of business. Many holidays are lost to the employees in order that the Branch may give its help to the farmers when that help is most needed.

The organization of the staff, according to Civil Service divisions, is as follows :—

1 (Commissioner) 1 A ; 4, 2 A ; 2, 2 B ; 5, 3 A ; 9 (including messenger) 3 B ; outside service, 9. The names are as follows:

1 a. George H. Clark, Seed Commissioner.

2 a. Messrs. E. A. Eddy, T. G. Raynor, Geo. Michaud, Jos. C. Coté.

2 b. Duncan Gow, Wm. Bond.

3 a. Misses A. Cranston, S. Millette, A. L. Brown, M. F. Hartley, A. Bradley

3 b. Misses C. M. Lafontaine, R. Ralston, H. Hill, J. Fisher, J. M. Kilburn, L. Reardon, M. J. Winthrop, M. T. Rochette, Messenger, S. Kipp.

Outside Service, employed as seed inspectors and instructors in seed-growing: S. J. Moore, Truro; D. M. O. Malte—recently from Sweden—headquarters, Ottawa; E. A. Howes, Guelph; F. H. Reed, Regina; Alfred Eastham, Calgary; Louis Lavallée, St. Guillaume. There are also three office assistants at district offices.

The majority of these—all of them except those in the lowest divisions—are technically trained men, graduates of agricultural colleges. Several have world-wide reputation as authorities on special features of the working which they are engaged. Besides these there are a number of temporary employees, including those employed at the sub offices of the Branch.