

samples of seed grain were tested in 1890, with a view to informing individual farmers as to the percentage of kernels which might be expected to grow under favorable conditions. This information is given at no cost whatever to the farmer. His samples are carried free through the mails, and he pays no fee for the test. In the same way, the members of the staff hold themselves ready to answer all enquiries promptly and without cost. They will even do more than that without charge. The chemist, for example, will receive samples of well water from farmers and in due time inform them as to its purity and fitness for use, either by their animals or their households. A farmer finding some insect pest preying upon his fruit, his vegetables or his grain, has only to send a specimen to the entomologist, and he will receive in course of mail a definite answer as to the character of the depredator and the remedy. Problems relating to fruit culture or tree-growing are dealt with by the horticulturist; while matters bearing upon poultry-raising are taken up by an intelligent expert in charge of that branch. Beyond these, the Director is prepared to receive inquiries of any sort having to do with farming, and to give answers whenever it is at all possible. These farms are thoroughly equipped for useful work, and are well calculated to enhance the profits of farming in all its branches.

TWO-ROWED BARLEY.

An instance of the Government's positive efforts to aid the farmers of Canada arose during the year 1889. For reasons which are generally understood, the Minister of Agriculture imported 10,000 bushels of the best English two-rowed malting barley. This was sold to farmers throughout the Dominion at the bare cost in England. The year was unfavorable for barley growing; but the crop of last season, from the imported seed, turned out well. Samples sent to the Brewsters and Malsters' Exhibition in London, Eng., last fall, were highly commended. Quite recently 400 bushels were sent to Great Britain for the purpose of being thoroughly tested in one of the leading breweries. The reports of experts in the United Kingdom, without a single exception,