

PARTICIPANTS BY PROVINCES.

Nearly 10,000 farmers last year received useful samples of grain for testing in their respective districts in connection with this branch of work. The number of applications in the several provinces were as follows: Prince Edward Island, 134; Nova Scotia, 552; New Brunswick, 759; Ontario, 1,547; Quebec, 5,282; Manitoba, 305; North-west Territories, 350, and British Columbia, 185. Total, 9,114.

DISTRIBUTION BY THE BRANCH FARMS.

In addition to this, the branch experimental farms tested samples and distributed a considerable amount of seed. The superintendents are all authorized to give to any farmer who applies within their province samples of three pounds each for test. Heretofore the number of samples given to an individual had not been subject to any special limit. They have seldom, however, exceeded three or four to any one person, but this year, by instruction of the Minister, on account of the difficulty we had last year in supplying all the demands, the number of samples has been limited to two, to each individual. This will enable us to send to almost every farmer who is likely to apply for them samples from the experimental farms, and to get through with the work in time for seeding.

The distribution for 1893 is now in progress, and up to date over 2,000 samples have been distributed. The work was begun about the middle of February.

SEED GROWING AT BRANDON AND INDIAN HEAD.

On each of the western experimental farms, at Brandon and Indian Head, quite a large acreage is devoted each year to growing pure grain for seed purposes, and in addition to the small samples to which I referred, these farms have sold to some 300 farmers grain in larger quantities. The custom is to limit the quantity in each case to two bushels, and to supply this at a cost of about ten cents a bushel in advance of the ordinary market price of such grain, so that those farmers who apply in good season can have enough grain to sow an acre of their land with any of those new varieties as long as the stock holds out. The object is to grow on these two farms as much as is practicable of the most useful varieties of grain so as to permit of their being distributed without delay over a large area in these grain growing districts.

WORK OF TESTING AT THE CENTRAL FARM IN 1892.

In carrying out the tests in connection with the work at Ottawa, we tested last year 531 varieties of grain and other farm crops. Of these 43 have been spring wheat, 26 fall wheat, 55 barley, 57 oats, 64 of pease, 59 of beans, 15 of carrots, 13 of mangels, 18 of turnips, 7 of sugar beets, 19 of Indian corn, 3 of buckwheat, 10 of millet, 135 of potatoes, &c. These numbers in some instances are much less than they were one or two years ago.

Our lists have become more select, and we are discarding every year such varieties as are not of special promise, and introducing into the lists new sorts from foreign countries, and such also as are produced at the experimental farms. Three years ago we had 80 varieties of Indian corn under test. Last year we tested only 19 varieties. There were a large number in the former tests which were found to be too late for our climate, and there was no particular object in continuing to grow them, in a similar way the lists in all classes of products become more select from year to year, and are being made to include only such as are likely to be useful over a large area of our territory.

THE OAT CROP OF 1892—VARIETIES AND YIELD OF EACH.

Taking the oat crop, which is perhaps the most important in connection with agriculture in the Dominion, next to that of hay, we find that there are a few varieties which succeed well at all the experimental farms.