

CONCLUSIONS.

The experience of another year with comparative trial plots of many different varieties of grain, fodder corn, field roots and potatoes affords striking confirmation of the correctness of the results and conclusions which have been reached from season to season for the past eight years from the study of this interesting and important series of experiments.

The evidence produced shows that there are great differences in the relative productiveness of varieties, when grown side by side under similar conditions, hence the importance to farmers of choosing for seed those which give the heaviest crops, so that farming in Canada may thus be made more profitable.

- In bulletin No. 40, published a year ago, in which was given the results of similar trial plots for 1901, no varieties of grain were admitted into the comparative list for a series of years unless they had been under trial for five or more years. Under this arrangement only 41 of the 64 sorts under test were considered. In this issue all those which have been three years or longer under trial are placed in competition, and the number of years they have been under test is stated in each case. As a result of this new arrangement some of the more promising of the more recently introduced sorts have found their way into the list of the 12 varieties which have given the largest crops throughout the Dominion. It is noteworthy, however, that in most instances the larger number in these lists consists of varieties which have been under trial for seven or eight years, and these are for the most part the same sorts as appeared among the best twelve in 1901 and previous years.

The general adoption of this plan throughout the bulletin has brought new names into most of the groups, but the preponderance maintained by the most productive sorts of past years shows the persistence of their productive character.

Having gained much experience during the past eight years with the many varieties under trial, it is proposed during the coming season to reduce the number of sorts being tested by discontinuing those which have failed to attain to a desirable standard and retaining only the very best in each series. By this means the names of those sorts which long experience has shown to be the most profitable to grow will be brought more prominently into notice, thus permitting a more ready selection of varieties of the highest excellence.