

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM NOTES.

ferent varieties, as some kinds which ripened early last year were among the latest to ripen this year.

The Walter apple fruited this season for the first time on trees planted in 1895. The apples are very large and of fine appearance; quality about medium; season, appears to be October and November. If it continues to thrive, this variety may be a valuable acquisition to our list of hardy fruits. Two trees of the Milwaukee apple, planted in 1895, bore heavily this season. The fruit is large and is striped somewhat like Duchess, of which it is a seedling. Its season is said to be from December to March. The trees seem quite hardy. Also, is a promising variety and will prove valuable if it is a good keeper.

In the year 1890 an orchard was planted containing about 3000 trees raised from seeds imported from Riga, Russia. These trees were reduced by blight, winter-killing, and other causes, to about 1000 trees before they began to fruit. Up to the present time, about 150 trees have borne. The greater part of these have produced fruit ranging from medium to large in size. They are nearly all summer varieties and none of them are especially promising. Although there are many of them which appear just as good as some of the named varieties of Russian apples.

A building for curing tobacco in has been erected this autumn from plans prepared by one of the most practical tobacco growers in Canada. The system of ventilation is well planned, and good results should be obtained. One and a half acres of tobacco, consisting of three varieties, namely, White Burley, Little Oronoko, and Havana Seed Leaf, were grown, and the plants are now curing in this building. Besides the three varieties mentioned, there were 45 varieties grown for comparison.

The potato crop was good this year in the Experimental Plots. Most of the varieties which usually yield best will again be near the head of the list this year. Among the most productive and best in quality are: American Wonder, Everett, Carman No. 1, and Empire State.

The leaves of the trees and shrubs are, with few exceptions, not highly colored this autumn; the weather being cloudy and wet has not offered favorable conditions. Three of the exceptions are: the Ginnalian maple (*Acer tartaricum Ginnala*), Thunberg's Barberry (*Berberis Thunbergi*) and the Fragrant sumach (*Rhus aromatica*). The first of these is a little maple from Amurland whose deeply cut, pretty leaves, and ornamental fruit are very attractive in spring and early summer, while in autumn there is no maple yet tested here which surpasses it in the brilliant coloring of its leaves; the season appearing to make little difference. It is perfectly hardy at Ottawa, but apparently does not live to be more than 10 or 12 years old, by which time it reaches a height of about 13 feet. Thunberg's barberry is a compact little shrub which does not usually grow more than from three to four feet high, but it is a perfect blaze of color in autumn. Its scarlet fruit also makes it quite ornamental in winter. It is a very desirable shrub. The Fragrant sumach is a native shrub of spreading habit. Not specially ornamental in early summer, but it should have a place where there is much shrubbery, on account of its high coloring in autumn.

The perennial border, which is half a mile long, contains about 1200 species and varieties of herbaceous plants, and is very attractive to visitors from early spring until late in autumn. The severe frost of the 2nd of October this year