

'In Austria-Hungary there are sixteen seed testing stations, some of which are private establishments, while six are supported by the State and two by agricultural societies. The most important of the Austrian stations is that at Vienna, which is maintained by the Imperial Agricultural Society and also receives a State subvention.

'In Belgium seed testing is undertaken at the nine State agricultural experiment stations.

'In France, where seed testing has apparently not made much progress amongst farmers, there is only one station, at Paris, which is attached to the Institut Agronomique, and is supported by the State.

'In Denmark there is one important station at Copenhagen, which is supported and managed by the State.

'The Swedish seed control stations, which number 18, are usually attached to the agricultural experiment stations. They are, however, supported by special grants from the State and from societies (and in three cases from provincial funds), and work under the direction of the State Agricultural Department.

'In Norway there are three stations, two of which are attached to the State chemical control stations at Christiania and Trondhjem.

'In Finland there are seed control stations in connection with the chemical experiment stations at Abo and Helsingfors.

'The Scandinavian stations adopted uniform methods for seed testing in 1890 in accordance with rules drawn up by a committee appointed by the Governments of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

'In Switzerland there is an important station at Zurich, which is partly supported by the State.

'Seed control work has not yet been established on a large scale in the United States, although many of the agricultural experiment stations have been engaged in seed investigation for a number of years. Regulations for seed testing, were drawn up by a committee of the association of American Colleges and Experiment Stations in January, 1897, and were published by the United States Department of Agriculture in February of the same year. This action of the central department may be regarded as the first attempt to establish a system of seed control in the United States.

'In none of the above-named countries, with the exception of the United States is there any special legislation requiring seedsmen to guarantee the purity or germination of the seeds sold by them. But the agreements signed by firms under the 'control' of a seed-testing station are sometimes of such a character as to bring the voluntary guarantee furnished in accordance with such agreements within the jurisdiction of the civil courts, though an appeal to such tribunals is seldom necessary. In the United States one example, at least, is forthcoming of a seeds law, viz., in the State of Maine, where an Act to regulate the sale of seeds has been in force since September, 1897.

METHODS OF SEED TESTING.

Uniform rules for seed testing have been adopted in most countries where seed control stations have been established. This is necessary in order that the methods of procedure at the various stations may be the same and that the work of one station may serve to check that of another.

In 1896 the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, at a convention held in Washington, appointed a 'committee of experts in seed testing to devise and adopt a standard form of seed testing apparatus and methods of procedure for use in all American stations.' The rules for seed testing that were adopted by this committee have been followed in detail at the Dominion Seed Laboratory, Ottawa.

When an examination for purity is to be made, the sample is first well mixed and the required quantities drawn and spread upon a sheet of paper, where it is examined under a magnifying glass and all foreign matter removed and weighed. The percentage by weight of each kind of impurity is then determined. The weed seeds are identified