

remain so. Hence it is but natural to find that the Government—the Department of Agriculture—bestows much attention to the scientific investigation and practical development of that industry. We have here in Ottawa the Central Experimental Farm where most of the work is carried on; there are besides 18 other Experimental Farms and Stations distributed through the various provinces and under the control of the central body. I can but briefly touch on the scientific work, and the work done in a scientific manner by the many branches of this department.

In the Seed Testing Branch, analyses of seeds are made, their germinating power determined and hence their economic value to the farmer ascertained.

In the Chemical Division, the work of the laboratories engages itself with the analyses of soils as to their potash, lime, alkali or other content, their excess or deficiency in nutrients for particular crops; fertilizers also receive investigation. The results of all this valuable research is made available to the farming community throughout the land by means of bulletins widely distributed over the country.

In the Horticultural Division experiments are carried on with fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants; and new varieties are created particularly adapted for the soil and climate of certain areas.

In the Cereal Division, wonders have been accomplished by years of laborious selection in evolving or creating a wheat specially adapted for our Northwest in its early ripening qualities. The Marquis wheat which has now held the world's prize for some years was not only born here, but was literally made here on the Experimental Farm. Cross-breeding and cross-fertilization have attained great success. The ultimate value of wheat is in its milling and baking properties and qualities. These, too, are investigated scientifically here.

To effectively combat weeds a study of their life history is necessary, and experiments are made for determining the best means for their extermination, thereby adding much to the wealth of the country. In 1915, no less than 955 weeds and wild plants were identified by this branch.

Health is the desideratum with man, animal and plant. Sickness and disease, if not unavoidable, are at least controllable to a large degree. Disease in the product of our farms is a serious matter, and immediately means millions of dollars of loss in our staple industry; and its prevention and control mean likewise enormous saving or increase in our national accounts. Of recent years the most important and successful investigation that has been carried on is the one dealing with diseases of the potato—common and powdery scab. Besides the laboratory in Ottawa there is