

greatly improved for general purposes. The market is sure to come, and there is likely to be much money made out of the trade.

479. The number of ranches in operation was 135, and they comprised 4,466,844 acres, and the quantity of stock in the districts of Alberta and Assiniboia was, as far as returns were available, 101,382 cattle, 6,924 horses and 15,266 sheep. The actual numbers are undoubtedly larger. Owing to the unprecedented severity of the winter of 1886-87 cattle suffered considerably, and many very severe losses were sustained, but it is satisfactory to know that they were trifling in comparison with the losses in Wyoming, Dakota and Montana. Judged by the experience of that winter, there seems no doubt that unacclimatized cattle from the east suffer more from severe weather than range cattle, the losses among the former having been about 25 per cent., and among the latter from 8 to 10 per cent.

The
ranches in
the North-
West.

480. The work in connection with the establishment and organization of experimental farms, as provided for by legislation in 1886 has proceeded very satisfactorily during the past year. The Central Farm at Ottawa is almost in complete working order, the buildings necessary for carrying on the work in the most approved manner are being provided, and there will be every facility for making useful experiments in testing all sorts of cereals, roots and other farm products for the purpose of proving which are the most promising and profitable varieties to be grown in the different Provinces.

Experi-
mental
Farm at
Ottawa.

481. Sites for the experimental farms for the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories have been determined on, one near Nappan, Nova Scotia, one near Brandon, Manitoba, one at Agassiz Station,

Experi-
mental
Farms in
the Prov-
inces.