

ance to the farmers residing in the several provinces. Each farm is furnished with suitable buildings and supplied with the best breeds of dairy cattle and some of those best suited for beef. Useful experiments are conducted with these, also in raising swine and poultry. Many tests are made with the most promising varieties of grain fodder-crops, roots, vegetables, forest trees, &c. Experiments are also conducted as to the best methods of preparing the soil for crops of various sorts, in the draining of land, in determining the best time for sowing, and also the most practical methods of maintaining the fertility of the soil.

505. A large proportion of those varieties of grain grown on the several farms which prove to be the best and most productive, is distributed by mail in small bags containing 3 pounds each, to farmers in all parts of the Dominion who ask for them. These sample bags of grain, when sown and properly cared for, usually produce from one to three bushels, and at the end of the second year the crop will generally furnish the farmer with a sufficient quantity of seed to sow a considerable acreage. This distribution is carried on at all the farms, but the larger part is sent out from the Central Farm. In 1893, 21,377 samples were mailed to 11,831 applicants. The surplus stock of promising varieties of grain grown at all the farms, beyond what is required for the sample bags, is sold to farmers in quantities of from 1 to 2 bushels to each applicant.

506. During the past three years more than 5,000 packages of seedling forest trees and cuttings, and about five tons of tree seeds have been sent out in small bags by mail, free of charge, to farmers in different parts of the North-west who have applied for them, and thus a general interest in tree-growing has been awakened. An annual report is published, containing particulars of the most important work done at each farm, and this report is sent to every farmer in the Dominion who asks for it. The number distributed annually is about 150,000 copies. Occasional bulletins on special subjects of importance are also issued from time to time, all of which are read with interest by a large proportion of the most intelligent farmers in the country.

507. The Dairying Service of the Department of Agriculture was begun in 1890, when a Dairy Commissioner was appointed to act in affiliation with the Central Experimental Farm. The good work of developing the agricultural resources of Canada through the dairying branch of farming has made steady and