

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

749. The establishment of the Experimental Farms of the Dominion of Canada was authorized by Act of Parliament in 1886. They are five in number and contain in all about 3,100 acres of land. There is a Central Experimental Farm located at the capital, Ottawa, and there are four branch farms in the other provinces. The Central Farm has been established near the boundary line between Ontario and Quebec and serves the purposes of both these important provinces. One of the branch farms is located at Nappan, Nova Scotia, near the dividing line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and serves for the three Maritime Provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Another has been established at Brandon, Manitoba, for the Province of Manitoba. A third at Indian Head in the provisional territory of Assiniboia, as an aid to agriculture in the North-west Territories, while the fourth is located at Agassiz, British Columbia, where it serves a like purpose for that province.

750. At all these farms many experiments are in progress in all branches of agriculture, horticulture and arboriculture, and many problems of great importance to farmers have already been solved. In selecting the sites for these farms, due regard has been had to the great variations in climate in different parts of the Dominion, and they have been so placed as to render efficient help to the farmers in the more thickly-settled districts, and at the same time to cover the most varied conditions which influence agriculture in Canada.

751. The Central Farm has about 500 acres of land and a complete outfit of buildings suitable for carrying on experimental work, with residences for the chief officers. There are buildings for cattle, horses, swine and poultry. There is also a dairy with all modern appliances for experimental tests, a seed-testing and propagating house with a building attached which affords facilities for the distribution of large quantities of promising varieties of seed grain for test by farmers in different parts of the country.

The land for the Central Farm cost \$62,956 and for buildings, &c., there has been expended to 30th June, 1895, the sum of \$167,313.

752. The chief officers of the farm are a director, whose headquarters are at Ottawa, who supervises and directs the work on all the farms, and makes personal inspection of the branch farms at least once a year; and an agriculturist, who conducts experiments with cattle and swine, also in dairying and with various agricultural crops. He also fills the important position of Dairy Commissioner for the Dominion. There is also a horticulturist, who has charge of the extensive orchards and fruit plantations at Ottawa, and who carries on experimental work with the growing of fruits and vegetables, and with the best method of treatment for the various diseases to which they are subject. A chemist and assistant chemist who carry on the various branches of work in the chemical laboratory. A botanist and entomologist, who, with the aid of an assistant, investigates the subjects of the injurious insects, noxious weeds and plant diseases and suggests measures for their destruction or mitigation. Experiments are also being conducted in bee-keeping. In addition there is a poultry manager,