

who takes charge of the poultry department, and a farm foreman, who directs the labour on the farm and takes general charge of the field crops. The production of new varieties of cereals and other crops, the ornamentation of the grounds, and the forestry plantations are departments in charge of the director and his assistant, the foreman of forestry. During the past five years about 700 new varieties of cereals have been produced at the Experimental Farms by cross-fertilizing and hybridizing. All those of less promise are from time to time rejected. There are, however, still 232 varieties under test—130 of wheat, 28 of barley, 15 of oats and 59 of pease. Nearly 20 acres of land are occupied by forest belts, containing about 20,000 trees; these are mainly useful timber trees, and the chief object of this plantation is to test their relative growth for timber purposes. About 800 varieties of trees and shrubs are being tested in the ornamental clumps and groups in different parts of the grounds. An arboretum and botanic garden has also been established where promising varieties of useful and ornamental trees, shrubs and plants, as to their hardiness and general utility. A large number has already been secured and many additions are yearly made. This is under the charge of the foreman of forestry. With the aid of a suitable office staff a large correspondence is carried on with farmers, who are everywhere encouraged to write to the officers of the farm for information and advice whenever required.

753. At the branch farms much of the work is so arranged as to cover those questions which are of the most immediate importance 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 and ornamental trees, shrubs, &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.

754. 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 1894, 26,033 samples were mailed to about 26,000 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 one to two bushels to each applicant.

755. During the past three years nearly 6,000 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