

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.

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

572. The Central Farm has about 500 acres of land, and an 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.

573. The principal officers of the farm are the Director, Agriculturist, Horticulturist, Chemist, Entomologist and Botanist. The Director, Chemist, Entomologist and Botanist are provided with assistants. There is also a Poultry Manager, a Foreman of Forestry—who acts also as assistant to the Director, a Farm Foreman and an Accountant. A suitable office staff is provided for the conducting of the large correspondence, both in English and French, which is carried on with farmers in all parts of the Dominion, who are encouraged to write to the officers of the farm for information and advice whenever required.

The director has his headquarters at Ottawa, and supervises all branches of the work on all the experimental farms, making personal inspection of the branch farms at least once a year. During these annual inspections the progress of all divisions of the work is enquired into, and in conference with the superintendents of these farms future courses of experimental work are planned.

At the Central Farm the production of new varieties of cereals and other crops, the ornamentation of the grounds and the forestry plantations are under the immediate personal charge of this officer, aided by his assistant the Foreman of Forestry. During the past six years about 700 new varieties of cereals have been produced at the experimental farms by cross-fertilizing and hybridizing, most of them at the Central Farm. Some assistance in this work has been had from experts specially employed for this purpose, and also from some of the superintendents of the branch farms. These new varieties are carefully watched, and those of less promise are from time to time rejected. There are of these still under test 189 varieties, viz., 87 of wheat, 33 of barley, 13 of oats and 56 of pease. Some of these new roots of grain have produced during the past year heavy crops of fine quality, indicating that they are likely to occupy a prominent place among the best sorts in cultivation. A large number of new fruits have been similarly produced, especially of hardy varieties likely to be useful in the Canadian North-west.

About 900 varieties of trees and shrubs are being tested in the ornamental clumps and groups in different parts of the grounds. These include species and varieties from all parts of the world where similar climatic conditions