

have been pushed back, resistance to diseases and pests has been built up and the quality of the product has been variously improved. The general effect has been that while the quality of Canadian agricultural products has risen, the efficiency of production or the production per capita has made great progress also. Plant breeding and the development of better cultural practices by experimental farms along with the more widespread use of machinery have been the important factors in enabling the agricultural industry to keep pace with the modern increased efficiency of production in other primary industries and in manufactures, thus enabling the agricultural population to share in the general rise in the standard of living without a permanent change in the relationship between the prices of agricultural products and those of other commodities.

**Early Work on the Branch Farms.**—The Brandon farm endeavoured at an early date to show the importance of the establishment of a permanent home built on sound farming practices for the prairie farmer. Shelter belts and ornamental planting were established at an early date and for many years the Brandon farm has been noted for its valuable work in the study of methods of live-stock production. At the time of the establishment of the Indian Head farm, the West was just opening up to settlement and little was known of its agricultural possibilities. The experimental work of this farm was a leading factor in the development of the country. New cultural methods and new varieties were introduced which rapidly placed the farming industry on a stable basis. The introduction of summerfallowing, a method of conserving soil moisture which has not yet been improved upon, was the result of work done on this farm. Early planting of hardy fruits, shrubs, and trees showed the possibility of establishing permanent homes on the open prairie.

On the farm at Agassiz, British Columbia, much was done to develop horticulture in British Columbia. Subsequently, when it was found that other areas were more suited to the growing of hardy fruits, emphasis was shifted to live stock with accompanying studies in crop production, especially in relation to dairy farming.

**Period of Expansion.**—For twenty years the original five experimental farms served the young Dominion well, and to-day these farms occupy a prominent place in the agriculture of their respective provinces. It became evident in the early part of the present century that, with the great expansion of agriculture in Canada, there must be an increase in the facilities available for experimental work. The Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa had grown rapidly, and the different branches of agriculture had been recognized as separate "Divisions" of the central farm. The Cereal Division had by this time produced Marquis wheat. It was distributed to farmers in 1909 and rapidly spread throughout Western Canada, extending the spring wheat area enormously. The value of this one production of the Experimental Farms System alone is sufficient annually to pay the complete cost of the system.

**Expansion in the Maritime Provinces.**—While agriculture was spreading in the newer areas of the West, the older areas of the East were beginning to meet the problems which always come when agriculture has passed the virgin stage. The problems of decreasing crop yields, due in some cases to lack of plant food and in others to definite diseases and insect pests, presented difficulties which urgently required solution. Accordingly, in the Maritime Provinces, experimental stations and plant pathological laboratories were established for each of the three provinces, at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Kentville, Nova Scotia; and Fredericton, New Brunswick. An experimental fox ranch was established at Summerside, Prince Edward Island, to study problems in nutrition, disease, genetics, and general management. This ranch has given splendid service to this important industry.