

CEREAL DIVISION.

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DOMINION OF CANADA. EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B. AGR., DIRECTOR.

*Central Experimental Farm,
Ottawa, Canada.*

January 12th., 1912.

Mr. Seager Wheeler,
Maple Grove Farm,
Rosthern, Sask.

Dear Mr. Wheeler,

I am indeed very much obliged to you for your kindness in sending me the very beautiful sample of Marquis wheat from your famous plot of last year and also the photographs. It seems to me that if the lot which you sent to New York was visibly better than this sample the rest of the world had very little chance for that prize.

This sample of wheat is, I think, the best in my collection, the only one which competes with it at all is a sample of Marquis grown at Beatty some two or three years ago by Mr. Cay. His sample is a trifle more plump than yours and weighs sixty-six and a quarter pounds to the bushel but it is not so bright and contains a small proportion of kernels that have soft spots in them so that it has not the rich appearance of your sample.

I am very much obliged to you also for the kind remembrance to me which you and Mrs. Wheeler sent in the form of a Christmas card a few weeks ago. I am looking forward to having the pleasure of seeing both of you again next summer.

Replying to your question in regard to my method of sowing grain in small plots, I may say that when the number of kernels to be sown is very small such as for instance, forty to two hundred, each kernel is put in by hand. The land is first of all prepared so as to be very smooth and fine on the surface and a wooden marker is then drawn across making a group of four lines 6" apart. The kernels are then placed about two or three inches apart in these lines. When the soil is not soft enough to enable one to push the kernel down to the proper depth with his finger a small wooden tool is used for the purpose. A rake is then used to draw the soil over and pack it somewhat.

When the quantity of seed amounts to several hundred kernels or more we use a hand seed drill sowing the rows 7" apart and of such length as may be convenient. These little plots are of various sizes as I have never yet adopted the plan of taking yields from anything less than one-sixtieth acre plots though I may perhaps do so in the future as I think that valuable information might sometimes be obtained in this way.

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S.W. -2-.

I hope this will give you the information you need,
if not please do not hesitate to write again.

I am going to Winnipeg to deliver addresses, one of
which is to be on Marquis wheat, on the 12 and 13th. of February.
I am sorry that it seems impossible for me to go on to Sask-
atchewan at the same time, as I should like to meet some of the
farmers there at some of the conventions and seed fairs.

Yours very truly,

C. E. Saunders

Dominion Cerealist.