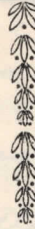


Council of Agricultural Education.

From the CEREALIST,

Dookie Agricultural College,

DOOKIE P.O., VICTORIA.



2nd April 1930

TO Mr Seager Wheeler

Rosheen,

Saskatchewan, Canada

Dear Mr Wheeler, It was quite refreshing to see your writing again, giving so many interesting notes of your work. I am glad your interest in wheat improvement has not abated. You must find your time fully occupied, what with your farming operations, and experimental work. I received a report of the Cereal Variety Committee of your State by the same mail as your letter. It was interesting to read. I am just afraid the inherent speculative perversity of the farmer will be too strong to confine his activities to the growing of just the few varieties suggested by the Committee. Judging by my experience, after a wheat has been grown by a farmer for some years, he tires of it and is tempted to introduce some other variety on his farm that is being boomed. He gives it the best field, and best treatment, and it sometimes scores over the old variety. Only a few farmers meet out even handed justice to each. Then again, local influences determine which gives the best yield. Here, this is the important consideration, as the grain is not classified as in Canada into grades, other than that up to the 'Fair Average Quality', and below it. The most perfect

F. A. Q.

Sample brings no better price for export than the sample; except, perhaps, by a few local millers may spring a penny a bushel more up to their requirements. Minister, Hard Federation and one or two other varieties bring a little better price than the F.A.Q. sample for milling in the State, but no better price as export wheats. Our system is unscientific and gives no encouragement to farmers to grow high class wheat as your system does. There is no bulk-handling in elevators in Victoria, but a start has been made in the adjoining State of New South Wales. I fancy the primary use Australian wheats are put to in England is for blending purposes, since the colour of the flour and its dryness, etc. better than most other wheats imported.

Red-grained wheat is taken in Australia, especially for export. Hence all the red wheats are now discarded for commerce. On the other hand in Canada the reverse holds.

I am sending you a few packets of red grained wheat. Among them are two packets of Bald Early & Tripala. Bald Early is an early common wheat, & Tripala is a cross between the Durum, Medeah & The Polish Wheat, *Trih. Polonica*. The one marked S.P. 234 was sown ¹⁹²⁹ 3 weeks before F.P. 318 B. It needs more work to fix it.

¹⁹²⁹ Cedar, is a red wheat that used to win the Champion prize for red wheats in the past. Now red wheats are shown. Favourite is a popular Argentine wheat.

The four averages namely, ...
F. A. Q.

I have not yet received your parcel. It will be in quarantine, & will not be sent on until fumigated.

I expect it will arrive soon. Thank you for sending them.

Victoria had a disastrous harvest in the greater wheat growing belt, but strangely in the East & South of the State the yields were high: in fact it was a record year in this district, some farmers having returns of 50 to 60 bush per acre on black soil, and 30 to 40 bush on red land. The rainfall was only 16 inches for the year, of which 8 inches fell from sowing time to the harvesting time. The soil however, was thoroughly fallowed & worked. The Victorian wheat-growers are in advance of any of those of other States in the thoroughness of working fallow; but great strides are being made all over the wheat-growing area, of the Commonwealth. The price of wool going down has been a blow to us, but we hope for better times, especially now the cost of labour is so high. With the economic slump apparent in every country, the cost of labour will probably come down.

There has been a coal strike going on for a year in New South Wales, where the principal Colleries are. I had a splendid season, 1929. The 700 drilled plots of wheat were fine. The gauges of stud rows, hand sown, the grain 5 inches apart, showed promising varieties. Among the packets I send you are two hard durum or semi-durum, Federation & Nobby which yielded better than the other ~~durums~~ ^{mate} tested. The white

the Fair Average Quality, and below it. The most perfect

2nd April 1920

selection gave 40 bush per acre & the brown 39 bush 10 lb. per acre.

I have been breeding these semi-decimus, which are in character really beardless decimus, preparing for the time when decimus wheat will be in demand for the manufacture of pastes such as macaroni. The farmers here won't grow bearded wheat. Arditta is said to be one of the best Italian wheats. I am sending a packet. It is said to stand well in Italy, but it shed its grain here. The humidity of our atmosphere is lower & so the glumes are more brittle. As it has had grain bearded it is of no use to me, except for crossing purposes.

We had a visit from about 20 South African farmers a little time ago. Among these were two women who had farms. They seemed to be better farmers than most of the men & more intelligent. I was amused when I asked one of these ladies, "What was one of the worst features of S. African farmers?" She promptly replied: - "The men won't work."

In the packet I sent you is a sample of Anulus, Mangiar from what you sent me some years ago. It yielded 34 bush 10 lb. per acre last season. It may be interesting to compare with yours. Being a red grained wheat, special attention has not been paid it in recent years, as it would not be grown outside the College.

With all good wishes & greetings

Yours faithfully H. P. J. L.

The Fair Average