

CANADIAN SEED GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

JAS. W. ROBERTSON, C.M.G.
President.

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY-TREASURER
CANADIAN BUILDING

L. H. NEWMAN, B.S.A.,
Sec.-Treasurer.

OTTAWA, CAN.,

November 25, 1910

Mr. Seager Wheeler,
Rosthern, Sask.

Dear Sir:-

In the absence of Mr. Newman, who has been spending the summer at Svalof, Sweden, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your field notes on plot of Beauty of Hebron potatoes and record form No. 8, covering your operations with Preston wheat this season, together with your letters of the 15th and 19th inst., giving further report on your work. The photos, samples of heads, of threshed grain and potatoes therein referred to have also been received.

Your record is certainly very creditable, in spite of the unfavorable season, and you are to be highly complimented on the success of your work. Adverse weather conditions have one redeeming feature in that they bring out more forcibly the value of high class seed. When climatic and soil conditions are all favorable, the inherent superiority of improved seed is not always so apparent; but, as with other things, it is under adversity that quality comes out.

We are glad to note the excellent record of your improved Preston wheat, as shown by your reports, photos and samples. It must be a great satisfaction to you and it should be an excellent object lesson to the farmers in the district. We trust that you will be able to prepare an exhibit for the Regina exhibition which will be a credit to yourself as well as to the association.

The heads you have marked "The square-head type" appear to be exceptionally well filled. A large proportion of the spikelets contain four well-developed kernels, which is a good indication of high yielding quality. If you have a number of heads with this characteristic well marked, it might be worth while trying to develop a special strain from them. If you undertake this, I would suggest that you keep the grain from a number of heads separate and plant in individual rows or plots. This will keep the product of each head separate and will give you a better opportunity of studying the plants and determining whether the desirable characteristics are likely to become fixed by selection. Work of this sort of course is rather complicated, but it should be very interesting if you

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have the time to carry it through.

I notice that you have applied for certificates of registration for twenty pounds of hand-selected, 350 pounds of improved and 3,000 pounds of general crop seed. By referring to section 33 of the by-laws of the association, you will see that seed must be selected by hand at least three years before it is eligible for registration. The product of this registered hand-selected seed is then eligible for registration as improved seed. The product of registered improved seed is eligible for registration as general crop seed. This is made clear by the diagram on page 21 of the booklet. By this you will see that only your hand-selected seed is eligible for registration, as this is your third year. Next year the product of your hand-selected seed plot will be eligible for registration as improved seed, and in 1912 the product of your improved plot will be eligible for registration as general crop seed. I am enclosing herewith certificate for your hand-selected seed.

While we can not issue certificates for your improved and general crop seed this year, we might include it, together with your Red Chaff Preston seed, in the catalogue of seed for sale by members of the association, if you have not disposed of it when the catalogue is issued.

Your report on the potato plot indicates that the work is being carefully done. The tubers appear to be of good quality, although we have not had an opportunity to make the cooking test for which you so kindly provided the material. I notice, however, that the eyes are quite deep. This is rather a serious defect as it makes a lot of waste in peeling. The point is worth considering when you are making your selection.

Very truly yours,

E. D. Eddy.

Acting Secretary C.S.G.A.

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One enc.