

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DEPARTMENT OF FIELD HUSBANDRY

January 10, 1928,

Dr. Seager Wheeler,
Rosthern, Sask.

Dear Dr. Wheeler:

Problems have arisen in connection with the growing of registered seed grain. Among the questions that have come up are the following:

- What shall be the accepted descriptions of varieties of wheat?
- How do off-types arise and can they be prevented from occurring?
- What standards of purity are satisfactory for Elite Stock seed, for First Generation Registered, etc?
- How is the word "purity" to be interpreted?
- What is an off-type?

For the past two years we have been studying Marquis with a view to answering these questions. We would like to find out how much variability in plant and head type there is within a single highly uniform strain of Marquis when grown at a dozen widely separated places in the Prairie Provinces. For the successful pursuance of this investigation your cooperation is desired. Judging by your always active interest in cereal investigations conducted either by yourself or by others, I believe you will be pleased to share in this work. May I take the liberty of assuming that you will cooperate?

Briefly the investigation will be conducted in 1928 as follows: Twenty-five closely similar heads of a typical well known strain of Marquis will be selected from material grown at Saskatoon in 1927. You will be sent one seed from each of these heads, 25 seeds in all, in an envelope. These are to be sown two inches apart in a row between two other rows of wheat on summer fallow, great care being taken that no other seeds but the 25 from the envelope are sown in the center row. At harvest time, the plants growing in the center row are to be pulled and sent in a carefully wrapped bundle to me for a complete laboratory examination. It is desirable that neither the seeding nor the harvesting be entrusted to ordinary hired help.

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Dr. Seager Wheeler, #2

If, for any reason, you find that you cannot co-operate in this investigation, please let me know as soon as possible. If I do not hear from you, I shall consider that you will cooperate and shall send the 25 seeds to you in April.

Yours very truly

FIELD HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT,

J B Harrington

Assistant Professor.

JBH:C