

## BOARD OF TRADE

SASKATOON, SASK.

1st October 1915

Seager Wheeler Esq,  
Rosthern, Sask.

My Dear Mr Wheeler,

My ardent and sincere congratulations! And, this is your third great prize. It is splendid. We are all proud of you. It is great work, - great for the country. There could be no similarly effective advertisement for Saskatchewan, no matter what price we might be willing to pay for it.

Our experimental farms and colleges characteristically sneer at "the man of the small patch;" but, it is the man of the small patch who is creating the agricultural ideals for later demonstration on larger patches. I believe you agree with me that, in ordinary cases, what can be done on a small patch may also be accomplished in a larger way, and is, in fact, quite within the realm of practicability.

Dr David Fairchild, head of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, D.C., was here the other day, and owing to being called home unexpectedly, was unable to fulfil his entire programme which embraced a visit to you. He was very, very sorry; and so am I, for Fairchild is one of the most interesting men I ever met, and in our short conversation, I learnt a great deal. He is enthusiastic over your work. He was the man who sent Hansen out to Siberia to collect wild fodder plants, among which were the Siberian Alfalfas which we are all growing so successfully.

When you are next here, I would like to show you a root of Taylor's Improved Red Fife. The heads are wonderful. It is a matter of seed selection; - and, planting in rows 8 inches apart, one seed to every three inches. You can see what this means either in a dry or a wet season. There will always be water enough. I am beginning to believe that in many ways, and particularly, in the case of Alfalfa, we sow far too thickly. I am also respectfully convinced that our potatoes should be planted FLAT, and not drilled, as we now do. I spoke of this to you some time ago, and you agreed. So does Paul Gerlach. Why should we apply dry farming methods to all our crops save potatoes? Why should we continue to grow these and cultivate just as we do in the east or in the Motherland, where there is far too much water? Certainly, we don't want the tubers to get burnt; but do they get burnt in South Africa where they are always planted flat? We are all wrong in this potato business; and I find that the Agricultural College will scarcely discuss the idea of planting potatoes FLAT; but,

we

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**BOARD OF TRADE**

SASKATOON, SASK.

2nd October 1915

Seager Wheeler Esq:

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we will all be doing it in a few years, in spite of that; and if I remember aright, you were thoroughly in accord with that opinion.

With very sincere regards, and again congratulating you from my heart on your splendid achievement. God bless your work.  
Faithfully yours,

*F. MacLure Sclanders*

Commissioner.