

CEREAL DIVISION.

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Dominion Cerealist.

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Assistant.

DOMINION OF CANADA. EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRIDDALE, B. AGR., DIRECTOR.

*Central Experimental Farm,
Ottawa, Canada.*

Nov. 30th., 1911.

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

Dear Mr. Wheeler,-

I thank you very much for your letter of November 21st. giving me some account of your season's experience with Marquis wheat. Your yields were certainly extraordinary and I am glad that my personal acquaintance with you makes it possible for me to believe them. I fear the general public might regard them as erroneous.

I note that you obtained four bushels and ten pounds from five pounds of seed. This you refer to at eighty and two-thirds bushels per acre. I presume, therefore, that the five pounds was made to cover slightly more than one-twentieth of an acre because if it were sown on exactly one-twentieth of an acre the yield of two hundred and fifty pounds would be at the rate of eighty-three and two-thirds bushels per acre. When you write again will you kindly give me the exact particulars as to the size of your plot?

If you could spare for me about half a pound of Marquis similar to that which you sent to New York it would interest me

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S.W. -2-.

very much to have it in my ^{permanent} ~~prominent~~ collection of special samples.

I presume that of your three thousand bushels of wheat a good deal is Preston but no doubt you will go now very largely into the cultivation of Marquis. I may say that we shall, in the future, send out very little Preston or Huron to Saskatchewan and will limit ourselves almost altogether to Red Fife for the southern districts and Marquis for farther north. Early Red Fife has not proved satisfactory in regard to rust ~~and~~ resistance, and Stanley also is distinctly inferior to Marquis. I hope in the course of a year or two to have some earlier varieties than any of these for distribution but meanwhile we shall send scarcely anything that is early except Marquis.

I examined today very carefully the heads from the two plants which I raised from the two short seeds of Preston which you sent to me last winter. One of the plants was very strong and satisfactory but the other was not. As the season here was not very favourable I was not surprised to find the grain somewhat shrivelled ~~for~~ both plants. The kernels, while not distinctly short and not quite uniform in the length, were certainly somewhat shorter than the Selected Preston H which we are now growing. If

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Preston were a rising instead of a falling variety, I might have been interested in following this matter further, but having tested the gluten derived from both plants by chewing a few kernels and having found that it is rather lower in quality than that of Preston H, I see no reason for continuing this shorter form. Of course, it would be somewhat more popular provided, the variety had otherwise as many good qualities as Preston H.

Yours very truly,

Chas. E. Saunders

Dominion Cerealist.