

Council of Agricultural Education.

4th Feb 1920

From the CEREALIST,

Dookie Agricultural College,

DOOKIE P.O., VICTORIA.

To Dr Seager Wheeler
Maple Grove Farm,
Rosthern, Sask. Canada

Dear Dr Wheeler

The wheats I sent you, a few days ago are in two parcels. I told the registrar to register them through the post. I trust you will receive them safely. I am sure you will be more than pleased with the collection. Among them, very possibly, are a few valuable varieties that only need your master hand at selecting. Very few of these crossbreds, if any, will be fixed. So far, they have not been fixed. The parentage shows a blending of Canada & Australia. Two such hardy races should produce something good. It is unlikely you would get anywhere else so varied a selection of red-grained crossbreds. I could only send you a few of each cross, as your letter reached me a little late. Had there been no summer rains, the transparency of the grain would be more manifest; as it is, the grain is bleached. Should there be any press comments on the wheats embodying your criticisms, I would deem it a favor to receive 'slips'. I have a good deal of uphill work, and somehow distant thoughts carry weight, especially with 'city farmers'. The pamphlet, "A Classification of the Wheats of Australia", will give a description of many of the wheats I use in crossing. Your wheats are more resistant than ~~the~~ ^{we} but we seldom

have weather conditions favoring the ^{great} development
of the disease; hence, except for the coastal areas and
a few others with a more humid atmosphere, the
general farmer does not worry about rust-resistant
varieties. A returned soldier, nearby, put in all his
land with Minister, he was too late to get other seed.
He obtained 13 bags to the acre. The average weight to
the bags (3 bus) was 206 lbs or 3 bus 26 lbs. On the other
hand to get 3 bus of Federation into a bag it needed rammings.
The bulk-handling of wheat by means of elevators
is not in vogue, though, in N.S.W., the attempt is being
made. I was interested in your comments on "Minister".
Its early habit of growth gives, even here, the appearance of
a late variety, but it finishes growth so rapidly that it
matures its grain before Federation, an early midseason
variety. It needs a good deal of work in selection yet.
I had 20 distinct types from the bulk lots, including
pink or reddish grained types. We do not, as I mentioned
in my last letter, pay so much attention to red grain;
however, I would not be surprised that from among
the crosses with Red Tife, Marquis, Kitchner &c and
our own wheats, will be evolved high class prolific
milling wheats that may revolutionize the thought
as regards red translucent grain. For the time being
the rough notes I include may be interesting
to you as you watch the growth of my crossbreds.

Very truly yours H. P. H.

I am sending three other packets of wheat
that probably I missed in the last consignment.
They are from a few plants missed in harvesting.
If duplicated it won't matter as they are of different plants to the others.

Huron x Joffre. Joffre, a white chaffed bald ear tending to club tip. Yielding capacity good in Victoria. Joffre ripens earlier than Huron. Yield of over 40 bus per acre recorded this & last season. Straw bit coarse & brittle if left standing long. White grain & large, medium strength. Huron you will know. Bit rust resistant.

(Huron x Federation) x Bobs. Federation, a brown tapering ear, stiff straw, rust liable. The standard Australian wheat of the dry areas. Grain medium size, low strength, white. ^{2d} An early mid-season variety, very rust liable.

Red Manitoba x Federation. The Red Manitoba is a strain of Red Fife. It yielded a bit better than Marquis this year, viz, 38 bus 20 lb to 37 bus 5 lb. ^{as early here, as Marquis}

Marquis x Yandilla King. Yandilla King one of the standard wheats. White chaff & grain slightly translucent. Bit tough to harvest. Less liable to rust than Red. ^{Mid Season} but rust liable. Medium strength flour.

Marquis x Minister. These crosses did not turn out as well as expected. Straw on coarse side. Minister, high strength flour.

Huron x Minister

Huron x Warden. Warden is the best hay wheat of Australia. Fairly prolific; grain brown, opaque. ^{Mid Season} weak flour. Straw tall. Ears, taper, white.

Marquis x T1183. T1183 a Polish - spelt - common wheat cross. Difficult to thresh. Large grain. ^{Seeds} ^{Mid}

Huron x Wallace. Wallace a purple straw variety; bold square ears. Grain good, low strength. ^{Mid Season}

(Marquis x Yauward) x (Huron x Wallace). Yauward, some what similar to Yandilla King. Ears to harvest. ^{Mid Season}

Dark Imperial x Red Manitoba. Dark Imp? one of the standard wheats: prolific; bold square ears grain low strength, straw stiff. ^{Mid Season}

Major x trimester. Major, one of the newer wheats. Most prolific: stiff tall straw: grain white, low strength. Ear bold, club tip. ~~rust~~ ~~scar~~

(Marquis x Yankton) } Indian ho's. Small dense clustered
Federation x Indian ho's } ear: small grain, short straw
from India.

Marquis x Major. Crossed to develop prolific crossbred of high strength, bold ears & more suitable for this climate.

Duok's Marvel. Evaluated more as a curiosity: The original lot. There were several other of these freaks I made though somewhat different in type. Some of the 'sharpeners' over your side (U.S.) may make another "miracle" known out of such

Currawa x Cambridge. Currawa & Jaffee are very similar in all characters. Cambridge the highest strength white wheat (Farrers) when well-grown has a semitranslucent hard grain. Moderate prolific.

R4179 x Marquis. R4179 an unnamed crossbred with bold brown ears. Rust liable.

Seini Durum are crosses of ordinary wheats with durum or vici urea. There are a number of them - no demand here. See the crosses to recross on other wheat.

Duok's Landley. A pretty poulard wheat.

Adam a Mummy cross taken after the Mummy type.

~~Bald Polish~~ - Polish x (Spelt x Vulgare) - Ears from
Sliver Dum. 9 to 11 inches long - large grain.
Vary lot of much moment.

Z 53 - Semi Durum - 61 bush per acre this season (in plot)

Z 64 - Hard durum blood - 50 bu. 5 lbs per ac

Z 1103 'Staley' - Cone or Rivett blood, also Polish & common wheat

Z 386 - a Paulard - One of the most prolific here
"Darker Australian Paulard" Only grown for experimental purposes

Z 226 Durum type - Shorter straw

Z 154 Durum blood - Dark ear - somewhat clubbed

Red Manslobe & Thaw - Thaw somewhat weak-strawed
early

Marquis & Bluey - Bluey is a selection from

Dart's Imperial - Strong straw

Firbank & Marquis - Firbank, very early, brittle
straw here - much used for early hay

Improved Skennedel & Red Manslobe

Imp Skennedel, early, liable to shed

grain if left standing too long. It is interesting

to me as the first cross I made (Skennedel x

Purple Straw) x Skennedel