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WINNIPEG,
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February 24th, 1944.

Dear Seager Wheeler:-

I was shocked indeed to receive your letter telling me of the sudden death at Calgary of your brother Percy. The Canadian Seed Growers' Association has lost one of its ablest and most trusted members and agriculture has lost one who served it well by making available each year quantities of the very highest quality of true-to-variety seed, and Canada has lost a first class citizen.

I shall have a piece about Percy in my next letter, drawing his high qualities to the attention of the public. Would you kindly write me a brief note by return, telling me his age and the year he came to Canada, the year he settled on his present farm at Rosthern and how far Percy's farm is from your own.

It is too late now to send a wreath, which I should like to have done, but when I visit Saskatchewan this next June, I shall do myself the honour of placing a wreath on his grave in memory of a good friend.

The seed world is fortunate that Seager is with us to carry on his good work and I trust you will be spared for many a year to come.

I had a long chat with Dr. Newman about your Red Thatcher. From what he told me it has not much hope of being licensed with its present qualities. It has the defect, Newman told me, that it is two or three days later than the ordinary Thatcher and that the volume of the loaf is somewhat lower than Thatcher or Marquis. Newman thought perhaps you would be able to find something better with selection work. He whispered to me, however, that there is one wheat of yours which they are testing, and which they think will be admirable for Eastern Canada. It is being given serious consideration for licensing. This will be a feather in your cap and everyone is pulling for you, hoping that it will come off.

You and Percy have made the most distinguished contributions to your adopted country, Canada. I was chatting with Mr. Vigor the other day and with Dr. Newman; also a number of scientific agriculturists assembled here in Winnipeg. We all agreed that there were probably no two men in the whole of the agricultural history of Canada who had done more for agriculture than yourself and Percy, and no man that was more highly esteemed and respected by his fellow citizens from East to West than you were, and whose name in addition was so well known in the United States and in other countries. The knowledge of all this must be a

very great source of happiness and contentment to you. It is not everyone that can say as they get along in years that they have lived a thoroughly useful life and made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of their fellow man as you have done.

Thank you for saying you will handle the orders for Percy's seed. I will have our "Crop Testing Plan" Department make out a little statement for you to show how it all stands, and what there is left to our orders and so forth, and I will look into how the money on it all stands. If we still owe anything we will send you a cheque at once.

I was more than delighted to receive the excellent book. You have placed my name in this. I shall treasure it. Do you wish me to return the book. If it is the only copy you have you should have it. I shall give myself the pleasure of reading it thoroughly. In glancing through it I noticed that the Wheeler family is well mentioned.

My own father was a Dorset man but he happened to be born in the Isle of Wight where his parents were living for a short time. I have often visited the Isle of Wight and have passed The Needles in the Channel many and many a time.

It is a great pity about Renown. For some reason or another farmers have not take to it. We have not had one single inquiry for Renown this year. Three quarters of all our demand is for Thatcher.

Please accept the sincere condolences of all the officials of the Searle Grain Company, of the "Crop Testing Plan" and of Mrs. Strange and myself, on the loss of your brother.

With best wishes, I am -

Sincerely your friend,


H.G.L. Strange.

HGLS/EF