

Council of Agricultural Education.

From the CEREALIST,

Dookie Agricultural College,

DOOKIE P.O., VICTORIA.
Australia

14 May 1917

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

Dear Dr Wheeler

It was with much pleasure I received your most interesting letter. Before I forget, I shall reply to your questions. Dart's Imperial is a low strength wheat. It is bald, just having a few small tips awns. If I can find an ear I will send it along. It is a popular wheat in some districts & has strong straw. The grain is white or yellow. The description in No 18 Bulletin I sent you is correct. It is most liable but not so much as Federation.

Minister's pedigree is as follows: { Fife-Indian & Dart's Imperial } x Durum D } x Dart's Imperial.

There was originally in the Fife-Indian parent a strain of Red Fife. Minister is not perfectly fixed yet. In some selections the straw is more solid than others and the grain varies relative to both size & translucency. I lack a list of the wheats I sent you, but seem to have mislaid it. I have just had 500 of the more fixed crossbred drilled in. The series is a very fine one, & mostly red-grained. I shall be glad to have a few grains of any wheats you have a mind to send. I

P.S. The Dart's Imperial is under some revision for winter wheat, & should be opened up until Sept. Royal Show, when I will get a few heads & send along. But some see before

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would be glad to have small packets of barley & oats, especially early maturing strains.

It is most interesting to note the behaviour of wheat, oats, & barley in new environments.

Minister is fully a fortnight earlier than Marguerite here. We have a great advantage in this climate being dry or low in ^{atmosphere} humidity at the next season.

Of course we fall into trouble in odd seasons.

I did not harvest some wheat until 1st March. They were ripe before the middle of December. I had made my seed selection then, but left the rest to test the straw, & the protective nature of the chaff for the grain. A number of the selections after stand-

-ing gave very fine bright grain, in others it was black.

We have a wonderful climate, & I cannot under-

-stand why more British immigrants do not settle out here, instead of your cold country. My report has been ⁱⁿ printed two months but is not out yet.

The government wills grind very slowly. I have mentioned you in it, and the occasion of your degree being conferred. It was sent in a little over a year ago.

I forget if when I sent the last lot of wheat, I gave the row numbers, or just noted them by successive numbers of packets. The row number if given is the more important, as I know from it which strain you had.

I fancy I mentioned that these wheat were unfixed crosses, & possibly a number of time would not throw

true. I am sorry I did not send you more this season. There have been changes here hence my remissness

I find the ^{among 3} Tife wheats are the most rust-resistant varieties I grow. Almost all our standard varieties are rust-liable. A few are more resistant than others, but still rusty in rust seasons. Here we grow early maturing varieties which if put in early ripen before the rust season is at its worst. These wheats however are very rusty if sown late. I do not know South's Early. I expect it is a selection of a better known variety. It is interesting to note your remarks about the Durums I sent you. Kiteak is one of the most rust & smut (ball) resistant wheats I grow. That which I sent you has been selected for its straw etc for nearly 30 years. Durums are not grown in Australia commercially & are only found at such places as this. I use them a good deal for crossing purposes. I have forgotten the names of those I sent. Any I have not already sent - I shall be pleased to forward next harvest. If sent in Feb^r or March they would be in time, I presume, for your sowing season. Of course I hope to hear from you before then. Of the wheat you sent me last; Awabak Marquis & Marquis had faint traces of rust. Early Triumph & Kiteak had a little more. However the rust was insufficient to make any impression. We never have Yellow Rust (accidial stage). We have no ^{*Puccinia triticiana*} Barberry plants. It is possible there may be other hosts but none are noted. What astonishes me is the short period from seeding to ripening in Canada. Last season trials were made in each State of 40 varieties, & the earliest of our wheats Bunyip took 139 days & Marquis 157 days in Queensland; 178 & 208 days respectively in New South Wales & Victoria. In Queensland from sowing to heading Bunyip took 85 days & Marquis

Sam seedling or sample in 13 barley which may interest you. I have a South of Queensland wheat called Yellow Marquis which you may be interested in. I shall send a little. But for the fact that our experience is they never are called good low crops of wheat in 4 years. Some time get wheat I know only sown when I gather from the crops otherwise that ripens in April or May has a very short harvest, but it is seldom we have a good summer. Then which tiller very little & harvest is very early. We will be very much interested in the results of your trials. I will get the wheat of your 40 & 50 but never are called good low crops of wheat in 4 years. Some time

Council of Agricultural Education.

From the CEREALIST,

Dookie Agricultural College,

DOOKIE P.O., VICTORIA.

18 April 1923

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

Dear Dr Wheeler

It is a long time since I have heard from you, and as I have a few spare minutes I am giving them to writing to you. I sent a report of mine, which I presume you received. I would like to know how those Marquis & Red Fife crosses did with you. As they were principally 2nd generation crosses I don't expect many of them would be true, but there were - sidrable variation. Marquis & Bluey perhaps yielded the best of the Marquis crosses, & Huron & Federation of the Huron crosses. I have only finished harvesting about a fortnight ago & have not yet tabulated yields. Some wheat have been standing ripe for 3 months & over. We have had such a mild dry season that the stout wheat have had too good a time to test the holding power of the ears & the strength of the straw. As there was no rain the covering power of the glume, & the impermeability to moisture of the grain had no test. This is meant to select varieties for districts subject to summer rains. The last harvest in some parts was good, and average yields of between 30 & 40 bu were obtained throughout the district. In other

I have been making crosses with early wheats for
districts having a 4 to 5 inch rainfall for the growing
period. There are wide areas in Australia of this
nature, & to open such country wheats to suit such
conditions are necessary. I just had a letter from
a farmer in West Australia who who obtained
24 bus per acre with Bald Early, a white wheat, with
a 5½ inch rainfall. No doubt it fell very prosperously,
as I don't think the cultivation is very thorough.

It is very dry over the whole of the State & has been
for some months, however, as regards wheat crops
there is plenty of time, only where the land is wild only
the crops are likely to be dirty. Livestock men feel
the want of rain more as the tanks have more
or less dried up. The irrigation people are reaping
a harvest of good prices for stock adjustment.

It seems that the public are taking some interest
in the results of my work through the year, and
there is some talk of a testimonial. I am figuring
a good deal in the newspapers, & I notice traverses
of my face illustrated in a number of papers over
the Commonwealth. It is quite all right to have
one's work recognized, after fighting against odds
& winning out, but it has little effect on me now.
When I wanted a little encouragement, ^{some 25 or 30 years ago,} was the time
I would have appreciated a little kindness. I've too
much to occupy my mind now, & don't see all the laudations
written, but hear of them from those who are about me.

I suppose the frosts are too severe for the
Australian wheats under Canadian conditions?

Did Wobby, that dark durum-like wheat come
to anything? Minister won the champion prize
of Australia at the Royal Show. It gave the top
average yield of this district about 30 bu. Some
returns were over 40 bu. over good size areas.

I sent the Duro's Imperial. You will see it
is not bearded. It has a good strong straw and
yields well in some places.

There is a bigger effort being made to in-
duce immigration to Australia. It has a
wonderful climate, & to the man who can
work & use his brains, a big opportunity.

There is no doubt the pioneering work needs
a stout heart, but to the man who can stick
there is a happy future. The unearned in-
creased alone has made a number of settlers
well off. The present generation needs to
much coddling in most countries. Very few
are now satisfied with the simple life.

With kind regards to your mother

Sincerely yours
H. P. G.