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FREIGHT AND EXPRESS,  
 TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH,  
 FARGO, N. DAK.

April 28, 1925

Dr. Seager Wheeler  
 Rosthern, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Dear Dr. Wheeler:

I was very much pleased to get your letter, and found no difficulty in reading it. The first one or two letters caused me some study, but now that I am familiar with the caligraphy I can read it almost as well as I can any writing.

The wheats came this morning in excellent condition, and as soon as it dries up after our last night's abundant rain, I will get them into the ground. I am saving out a head of each for reference work and for comparison of what is harvested next year. I have no idea that any of the "Slim Jim" will produce 10-inch heads here. If you are successful in getting any very long heads of this variety I will likely ask for some specimens after the harvest. The Minister White apparently is a good quality wheat, as a few kernels chewed resulted in an apparently excellent quality of very light colored gluten.

You speak of the mice bothering your material. The Automatic Trap Company, Chicago, Ill., manufacture a Peerless mouse trap which has a remarkable capacity for catching mice. I think they cost \$2 or \$3 but they are worth it if one is out for these creatures. In the winter time the water in which they are drowned can be replaced by a mixture of alcohol and glycerine, or kerosene would also do. Wooden boxes lined with wire mosquito mesh would also serve to keep them out.

You certainly have many interesting wheats appearing in your nursery. You are not limited by certain definite experimental projects which must be carried out as is a regular experimentalist, but you are much more of a free lance, able to try out anything appealing to you. Furthermore, your climatic conditions seem to favor field <sup>inter-</sup>pollination of wheat with a consequent production of a large number of new forms. One searching among the offspring with an eagle eye can pick out very many interesting segregates, as you have done. It occurs to me that your type of wheat nursery in conjunction with one which is conducted on a more strictly experimental basis makes a very happy combination. You are able to find many forms which have great potential possibilities, in addition to being interesting and bizarre. When these are brought to the attention of another person that other person may see possibilities in them or may be able to work out further experimental work which the one who found them would not be able to undertake. For these reasons I am indeed gratified that you have taken an interest in

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 Samp. letter.

Dr. Wheeler #2

my work, for I am confident that it is going to be of a great benefit to me, and I hope, as a consequence, to the wheat industry generally. The question is so big and broad that full generosity from each person will result more to each individual's credit, not only personally but to the general welfare of the industry as a whole.

Professor Vavilof of Leningrad has written some interesting wheat articles during the last few years. He claims that in his botanical explorations in Turkestan, the Pamirs, Kurdistan, and other ~~immed~~ ~~mid~~-Asiatic countries, he has found forms of wheat hitherto unknown to science which should be of great potential importance in crossing with other wheats. I have written to him for samples of some of these but have no reply. Communication is so difficult with that country, Russia, that quite likely my letters have not reached him. I have succeeded in getting one wheat, a species without ligules (the "ears" at the base of the leaf blade) which I am growing this year. It is a soft white wheat and of no commercial importance as it is.

I am corresponding with an amateur plant breeder of Montana, a Mr. De Kalb, who made some crosses between Turkey Red and one or two wild Montana grasses. He thought he had obtained some real crosses but it is rather questionable in my mind. He was good enough to send me some of the hybrid seed which I have planted in the greenhouse. Two of these plants are now headed out and they appear to be Turkey Red wheats. He tells me that most of his supposed crosses winter-killed this last winter. Apparently he did not protect them. Although my winter wheat-rye hybrids were protected last winter, all died after the protection was taken off. I do not know how to account for this. Fortunately I have a few seeds left from the one cross which proved to be unusually fertile, Kanred x winter rye.

I am wondering if you have Professor Percival's Monograph on wheat. This is an expensive book, \$25 I believe, but it is a wonderful mine of information about wheats. I mentioned the book to Mr. DeKalb, and he purchased a copy; he being a lawyer instead of a farmer was apparently easily able to do this.

I note what you say about the Turkey Red winter wheat which you planted in 1909 which apparently persisted until 1912. To have this happen to winter wheat is certainly very remarkable; as a matter of fact, I do not remember to have read in the literature any occurrence of this sort. It is too bad that the plants were not watched so that one could be absolutely certain that this was actually what happened. To watch the plants month by month would have been better than to have to draw the conclusion ~~from~~ <sup>in part</sup> from circumstantial evidence.

I was much interested in that part of your letter dealing with Quality wheat. I have planted some Clarendon wheat and will study this and Quality with much interest. Will also be glad to receive heads of Quality and Clarendon from you after harvest.

Very truly yours,

L. R. Wallron

Plant Breeder