

# \$150 CASH PRIZES

## Boys' and Girls' Seed Selection Competition

The Grain Growers' Guide wants to find out where the best wheat and oats are grown in the Prairie Provinces. In order to discover this The Guide is going to pay \$150 in cash prizes to boys and girls who will assist in this work. Any boy or girl between 10 and 18 years of age (inclusive) living on a farm in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta may enter the competition. Each contestant may enter the competition for wheat and for oats, and any number may enter from the same family, provided only that no one person may win more than one prize.

The method of selecting the seed will be to go out into your father's grain where the crop is best, just before the binder starts, and select enough of the choicest heads of wheat or oats to thresh out two pounds of clean seed. On this page will be seen illustrations to help in selecting the best heads. Put these heads into a sack and pound them until the seed is threshed out. Then winnow it on a windy day, put it into a sack and mail it to The Guide.

The Guide will pay the postage on one sack for each contestant, so that they will be under no expense whatever. The competition will close on September 15, and all sacks of grain must be in The Guide office by that date. They will then be judged by an expert grain inspector, who has no connection with The Guide whatever, and will be entirely disinterested.

The prizes will consist of \$150 in cash, and will be divided as follows:

### PRIZES FOR WHEAT

1st Prize	\$25.00	6th Prize	\$7.00
2nd Prize	20.00	7th Prize	6.00
3rd Prize	15.00	8th Prize	5.00
4th Prize	10.00	9th Prize	4.00
5th Prize	8.00		

### PRIZES FOR OATS

1st Prize	\$20.00	3rd Prize	\$10.00
2nd Prize	15.00	4th Prize	5.00

### RURAL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

This competition is being conducted by the Rural Improvement League organized by The Grain Growers' Guide. We are anxious to build up a large membership for the Rural Improvement League as we have a number of interesting plans for the League, and expect to distribute a considerable number of prizes to League members during the winter after this competition is over. We cannot give away these valuable cash prizes to the boys and girls who join the Rural Improvement League unless they are willing to help us by doing a little work in their own community. All that it is necessary to do in order to become a member of the Rural Improvement League is to pick up one subscription to The Guide, either new or renewal, at \$1.50 per year. You may get your father's renewal or any other renewal in the neighborhood, keep 25 cents out of it to pay for mailing your sack of grain and send in the \$1.25 to The Guide at once. In return we will send you Certificate of Membership in the Rural Improvement League and further instructions on how to send in your sack of grain.

Already a large number of boys and girls have become members of the Rural Improvement League and have entered the \$150 cash prize competition for seed selection. These boys and girls have already made their plans to select the best wheat and oats from their father's field, and some of them are going to win these very large cash prizes. There is no restriction whatever and these prizes will be paid out within a few weeks after the competition closes on September 15.

Do not delay. You will find it an easy matter to pick up a subscription. Any farmer will be glad to help you enter the competition by giving you his subscription and it will cost you nothing as you will keep out 25 cents to pay your postage.

#### NOW IS THE TIME

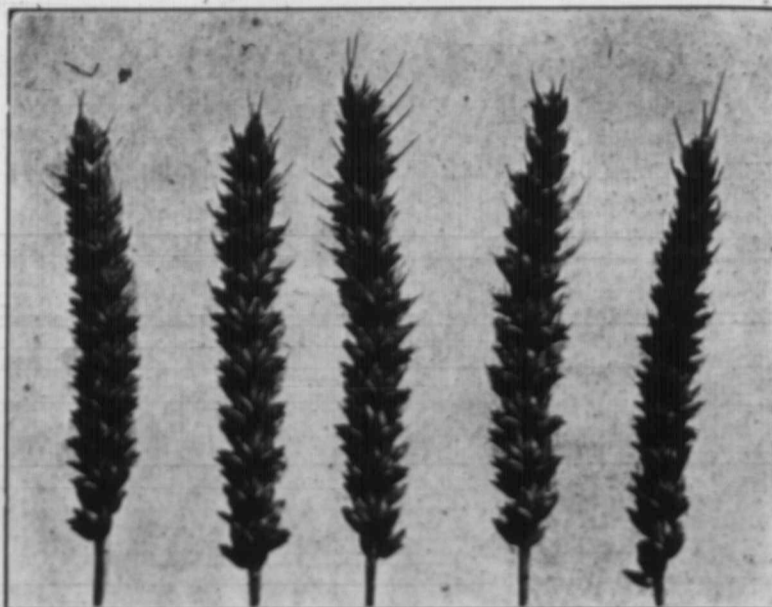
As soon as you have collected the \$1.50, mail us \$1.25 at once. Give us the name of the subscriber, post office address and province, together with your own full name, post office address, province, your age and your father's name. Do not put this matter off until the grain is ripe because it will then be too late. Now is the time to get ready and become a member of the Rural Improvement League by sending in a subscription; you can then take your time and get whatever assistance you like in selecting the seed, so as to be sure it is the very best possible.

Address all your letters to

The Secretary, Rural Improvement League  
**The Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, Man.**

# Increasing Crop Yields

Crop yields can be increased several bushels per acre by careful seed selection



These are exceptionally good types of heads of Marquis wheat. They are broad, solid, compact and well filled from bottom to top. Seagar Wheeler selection.

One of the most important factors upon which successful grain growing depends is the use of pure, clean seed. In order to obtain this, seed selection must be practiced every season. Just how much yields can be increased by systematic selection of seed is open to question, but it is certain that several more bushels per acre can be raised if care is taken to sow only first-class seed. Every farmer should have a special clean piece of ground each year on which he is growing selected grain to furnish pure seed for the following year's crop.

#### Mass Selection

For general farm conditions selection is best made in the growing crop. The best types to select are the compact forms and should be made from heads that are fully developed, every spikelet being filled from the bottom to the tip, providing they are of good length. Select the best developed heads and the largest grown under equal conditions, because such large heads will contain plump, sound grains. Selection of heads should be made when fully ripe. Choose a warm, dry day if possible. Moisture

on the heads, such as there is likely to be in the early morning or in the evening will cause moulding in the picked heads. Carry a good sized pail on the arm and with a sharp knife cut just below the head. Each pailful may be emptied into a sack. Three or four bags full should be sufficient to give seed for a quarter acre seed plot to provide seed for use on the farm for the succeeding year.

#### Thresh by Hand

The sacks, half full, should be hung up in a dry, airy place until they can be threshed. A little shaking once in a while will tend to dry up the heads quickly. To thresh place the bags on a hard surface and beat with a stick. When thoroughly threshed the broken heads and chaff may be taken out by a suitable screen shaken over a box or wash tub. Any chaff that falls thru with the grain may be separated out by letting it fall from one pan to another on a windy day. All small grain should be screened out, leaving only the best seed for next season's seed plot. This seed will be pure and free from any weed seeds.



Victory all selections. 1 and 2 are open, loose type with drooping panicles, undesirable type. 3 and 4 show flat, compact, upright panicles, and are the type to select. Seagar Wheeler selection.