

as bad as red fyfe in that respect. Thatcher is now considered almost one hundred per cent rust resistant. Could the minister give us any information as to how quickly wheat deteriorates in this respect? I think it important also that the department should be working on a variety to take the place of thatcher, because I think there is some evidence already of thatcher deteriorating from that point of view. Then, when the time comes, if we must have another variety to take the place of thatcher, a sufficient volume would be on hand to permit of distribution, and within a year or two there would be enough available to seed those areas in the west where they absolutely must have a rust resisting wheat.

Mr. GARDINER: My information is that as long as the strain of the wheat is kept pure the wheat will remain rust resisting. I think the difficulty is largely that in growing wheat on a farm in western Canada we may sow a pure strain of wheat, but if we have been growing wheat on that farm for a considerable number of years, after we have used seed from the same land over and over again probably the strain depreciates in purity. In other words, we probably get a mixture of marquis, thatcher and regent or any other wheat we may have been growing on the farm. To the extent that the strain deteriorates in purity the wheat becomes less rust resistant. That is the theory which our officials hold in that regard. I would not attempt to refute a statement of that kind because it is made by those who are as close as we can get to experts in connection with the handling of these seed strains.

Mr. PERLEY: Absolutely pure and free from other varieties.

Mr. GARDINER: There are some strains in the same variety of wheat which are not quite as rust resistant as others. It may be that there is a mixture of these strains and after three or four years you will have more of one strain than another. The result may be that your wheat is not 100 per cent rust resistant. For instance, farmers in western Canada found some rust in their fields of thatcher wheat, and they came to the conclusion that that wheat was only 65 or 75 per cent rust resistant. I am informed that this is not true. I am told that if you have a real rust-resistant strain of thatcher wheat it will be rust resistant.

Mr. PERLEY: Could the minister give us some information with respect to experiments being carried on with rust-resistant oats?

Mr. GARDINER: The vanguard oat which is seeded in western Canada was developed at Winnipeg. It is resistant to stem rust. The

[Mr. Perley.]

urban oat was developed at the Ontario agricultural college and is resistant to leaf rust. Crosses between these two varieties are being produced and are proving quite promising. These may turn out to be the most valuable of the different strains that are being developed.

Mr. QUELCH: What has been the experience of the department with canus wheat? I believe some 600 bushels were distributed among the farmers in the drought areas of Alberta. This seed is supposed to be very drought resistant.

Mr. GARDINER: The department has had very little experience with it. It has some drought resistant qualities, but the department is not prepared to recommend it or to give any information with regard to it.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: In view of the somewhat chaotic conditions which prevail in the European wool market, perhaps the minister could state what is being done to develop a wool-type sheep which could adapt itself to the various climatic conditions of Canada.

Mr. GARDINER: There are two experiments being carried on. One is in connection with the Corriedale, a sheep being produced largely in New Zealand and Australia. It is thought that this sheep will develop into the best variety to suit our conditions, particularly in the west. Another experiment is being carried on in connection with crossing the romney and ryeland sheep. It is hoped to develop a variety which will be suited to our conditions.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: How many of these sheep are now on experimental farms?

Mr. GARDINER: About a thousand of each.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I do not want the record to go unchallenged. The minister has suggested that there has been no change in the price of flaxseed during the last four or five years. He intimated that perhaps my information had been obtained by reading the daily press. I was speaking from memory at the time, but I now have before me the report of the Minister of Agriculture for 1939. I am sure that this report must be correct. It states:

The seed yielded on the average eight bushels of mill-run per acre and No. 1 grade sold for an average price of \$3 per bushel on the Irish market. This was a drop of \$1.10 a bushel from the average price received the previous year.

I know the minister will suggest that the information in this report is twelve or eighteen months old, but I wanted to get the up-to-date