

SEED BRANCH NOTES

In Census and Statistics Monthly for February G. H. Clark, seed commissioner, says that the Canadian Seed Growers' Association have amended their regulations for the selection of wheat, oats and barley, with a view to overcome the objections of farmers who make a specialty of growing high-class seed grain and who have found it inconvenient to do the work of selection from the standing crop, because of the rush of work at the season of harvest. In future the association will see that new members commence with foundation stock that is pure—where possibly they undertake to supply half a bushel of seed that has been bred up from one individual plant of outstanding merit—on condition that the new member will agree to operate a hand-selected seed plot or base of supply for pure seed. To keep the base of supply pure they will be required to select by hand as in the past, but under the amended regulations they may harvest their seed plots and store the crop in their barns, where the selection of heads that are true to kind and well developed may be made from sheaf, and threshed and cleaned by hand at a time when it is entirely convenient to the grower. Heretofore the hand-selected seed plot of most growers has commonly been a quarter of an acre; it is believed that under the amended regulations growers will find it convenient greatly to extend their operations, even to the extent of selecting from the sheaf and threshing by flail enough pure seed of the kind to sow even five acres, which will be maintained from year to year as a basis of supply and from which they would have seed to sow their farms. Under the regulations the seed from the general crop of the farm is eligible for registration after being inspected and approved by the officers of the association who visited the seed growers once each year.

Final returns from seed fairs held in Saskatchewan and Alberta this year showed that the high class seed wheat, oats and barley represented by the exhibits amounted to about 477,000 bushels, as compared with 167,000 last year. There was an increase of 13 fairs, making a total of 80: 49 for Saskatchewan and 31 for Alberta. The average number of bushels of cereals offered for sale per seed fair was 6,272, an increase of about 250 per cent. over last year. The total amount of wheat was 219,715 bushels, an average of 2,891 per fair as compared with 69,928, an average of 1,076 last season. The total amount of oats represented by the exhibits was 231,600 bushels, an average of 3,047 as compared with 80,496, an average of 1,238 last year. The total amount of barley represented was 25,280 bushels, an average of 333 per fair as compared with 16,586, an average of 301 last year. Not only was there a very substantial increase in the number of exhibits at most of the fairs, but the quality of the grain was very much improved over previous years.

In Quebec the seed fairs this year, eight in number, have been earlier than in previous years and have been a marked success both in the number of exhibits and in quality, and the interest taken in the work by the farmers.

In the Maritime district two seed fairs have been held and four more arranged for. Those so far held have been well attended and the exhibits have been numerous and of good quality.

During January 567 samples were received at the Seed Laboratory for germination or purity test, classified as follows: red clover 171, alsike 71, timothy 48, mixtures 4, other grasses 4, vegetables 173, herbs 8, tobacco 1, white clover 4, alfalfa 8, cereals 73, sweet clover 1, flowers 2.

Of the 171 samples of red clover tested for purity 59 grad. No. 1, 84 were second quality, and 28 prohibited. Of the 71 samples of alsike tested 17 were No. 1, 38 second quality and 16 prohibited. Of the 48 samples of timothy, 47 were No. 1 and one second quality. Of the samples of timothy, alsike and red clover received, only 31 were sent by farmers.



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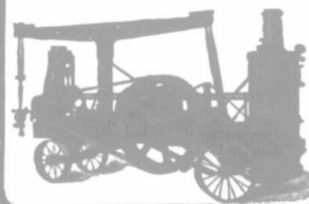
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