

SEAGER WHEELER'S NEW WHEAT

A Wheat That Yields More Bushels Per Acre and Ripens Earlier Than Marquis

THE name of Lord Roberts will be associated for all time with the highest and best traditions of the British and Anglo-Saxon people. It is quite fitting that the name of this great soldier should also stand for the best in agriculture. A new variety of wheat of great promise has been named after Lord Roberts. It is also particularly appropriate that this new wheat should be introduced to the farmers of Western Canada at the present time.



SEAGER WHEELER

So acute has become the food situation that the farmer on his farm in Western Canada to-day is as important a factor in holding back the enemy as is the soldier in the trenches. The best authorities in the Empire declare without hesitation that unless the food supply is sufficient the Allies cannot possibly win. The necessary food supply must come from Canada and the United States. Wheat is the chief requirement, and whatever will tend to increase the wheat crop will help to beat the enemy. In discovering and developing Red Bobs wheat Seager Wheeler has contributed more than any other farmer to the great work of increasing the food supply on the farms of Western Canada.

Great efforts have been made to secure an early ripening strain of Marquis wheat. No person has contributed more towards this than Seager Wheeler, of Rosthern, Sask., the world's most famous wheat grower. Mr. Wheeler has four times captured the world's international championship with Marquis wheat. He has taken more prizes for growing wheat than any other man in the world. By his experiments

he has vastly improved the quality of Marquis wheat, but he and all others have failed in their efforts to develop an early ripening strain of Marquis that still retains all the other good qualities of this standard wheat.

The Story of Red Bobs

But while failing to develop an early ripening Marquis, Seager Wheeler has discovered and developed an entirely new wheat with all the good qualities of Marquis and, in addition, ripens from six to ten days earlier than Marquis. This is his famous new wheat, Red Bobs.

The story of Red Bobs is extremely interesting. In the year 1905, a plant breeder named Wm. Farrer, of New South Wales, Australia, sent to Dr. Saunders at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, a sample of what he called White Bobs wheat. He stated that it was obtained by cross breeding between an unnamed variety of wheat and a variety of hulless and beardless barley known as Nepaul. Whether or not this remarkable story is correct, the White Bobs wheat was white in color and absolutely

it a commercial success, because of the prejudice against white wheat and the discrimination against it in the Canada Grain Act. Under the Canada Grain Act nothing but hard red wheat can receive a high grade.

In 1907 Dr. Saunders introduced White Bobs wheat at the Experimental Farms at Indian Head, Sask., where it was grown for several years, but was finally discarded, as it still remained white. Seager Wheeler, having read of this new Australian wheat, secured a ten-pound sample from the Indian Head Experimental Farm and seeded it. In 1908 it produced 60 bushels per acre on his plot. He found it to be considerably earlier than any other hard wheat he had ever grown. It was to Mr. Wheeler's mind the nearest to the ideal wheat for Western Canada, if it could only be developed to be red in color.

Scientific Search Rewarded

Seager Wheeler is a man not easily discouraged. The new wheat had everything but the color. He continued to grow it on his plots the second year, determined, if possible, to develop

watched to see if they would reproduce red seed.

In most cases the progeny of the red seed came back red and some of it was very early in ripening. By the process



The Late Field Marshal
EARL ROBERTS

of elimination, Mr. Wheeler selected the best red heads that came true to type and ripened the earliest; from these he developed what he has since called Red Bobs wheat.

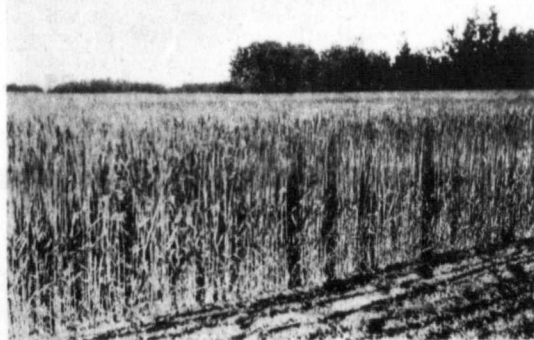
Mr. Wheeler was naturally greatly pleased with his discovery, but he was determined to be sure of the new wheat before giving it to the world. He began immediately making comparative tests with Marquis and Red Bobs.

In 1912 he sowed the two wheats on plots side by side on old land on the 22nd day of May. The Red Bobs was ripe and was cut ten days earlier than the Marquis, and turned out a beautiful sample. An early frost got the Marquis before it was ripe and it was frozen black.

In 1913 hail destroyed Mr. Wheeler's entire crop. A few days after the storm as he was examining his plots he found a few heads of his Red Bobs and Kitchener wheats still standing. These he ripened and secured seed for the following year. While Mr. Wheeler does not claim that Red Bobs straw is proof against hail,

it was remarkable that even a few plants were standing when the storm had passed.

A very severe test of Red Bobs was made by Mr. Wheeler in 1915. He sowed the wheat on stubble land in the first week of June. Even under these conditions his Red Bobs wheat ripened



beardless. It is, in fact, the only absolutely beardless wheat grown in Canada to-day.

Dr. Saunders tested the White Bobs wheat for a couple of years on the Central Experimental Farm. He found it considerably earlier than Marquis in ripening, and in milling and baking tests it proved to be equal to Marquis. It remained, however, a white wheat, very hard, and possessing a good straw and head. It was a splendid wheat in everything but color; being white, however, it would be difficult to make

a red strain. In 1909 his search was rewarded, while examining some heads on his White Bobs plots just before harvest, he discovered one with red kernels. Further careful examination of the whole of his plot revealed two or three more heads containing red kernels. The straw, the plant and the head in each case had all the desirable characteristics of the original White Bobs. He allowed these heads to ripen and carefully preserved the seed from them, which he seeded next year in small head rows, and anxiously

