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that out of every hundred widows only eighteen are left in good or comfortable circumstances, forty-seven are obliged to seek employment of some kind and the remaining thirty-five are left in absolute want.

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size of the grain and time of maturity and character of the straw. Where one cannot distinguish between these variations and the original type, it is not possible to mark any real improvement. This applies also to Red Fife and other varieties, altho the variations may not be so numerous. Barley and oats are also mixed with other varieties where no selection has been made.

While the first cost of pure seed is apparently high, it is really the most economical plan to purchase pure lines at the start for foundation stock. It lessens the possibilities of making false selection and the beginner can go right ahead and select the best head from the plot.

Use Clean Land Only

Having procured foundation stock seed sufficient to sow one quarter of an acre plot, and I would not recommend operating any larger plot at first, the next step to consider is the most suitable place to sow the seed in. Under no consideration should it be seeded on stubble plowed land or where any grain crop has been grown on the previous season. Good clean summer fallow or where potatoes were grown the previous season or new well worked breaking done the previous season or clean garden land. Any nice clean ground that is in proper condition is suitable. It should be situated not too far away from the home so that it can be under observation from time to time. The shape of the plot may be square or oblong. It should not be too long and narrow.

Before putting the seed in the grain drill the seeder should be overhauled and cleaned of any grain left over from the previous season to avoid any mixtures. The seed should be treated for smut as a prevention. When the plot is headed out it is advisable to go thru

danger of mice and the heads cut off when dry and placed in sacks for threshing.

When possible select only uniform types and where the heads are well filled from the base to the top; avoid loose open types and select those that are as compact as possible. The amount of grain thus selected will be used to seed a similar plot the following season. The balance of the plot is harvested separately, avoiding any mixture of other varieties that may be in the binder. This should be threshed separately and the seed used to seed a larger plot the following season. This will be termed the multiplying field and the seed from the field used another season to sow the general crop.

As I pointed out previously, where the foundation stock was procured from some reliable grower who may have spent some years in hand selecting the stock seed, one cannot go far wrong when selecting the heads in the plot as the original producer of the seed has done practically all the work in eliminating inferior types and other varieties and variations. But where the seed has no pedigree or history the beginner is puzzled or in a fog, not knowing for a certainty whether he is making true or false selection.

Where the plot is to be seeded close to other grain it would be advisable to allow not less than six feet between the fields. In harvesting the plot, to avoid any danger of mixing with other sorts it may be all cut one way.

As all the heads were gathered by hand there are no weed seeds to clean out and the selection is pure. It is advisable to guard against any impurities. When the heads are dry the sack may be placed on a hard floor and pounded with a stick to separate the grain from the heads. When this is done one will



Hand selected seed plot. Wheat multiplying field in background in 1911. Field 33 bushels per acre.

it and pull out by the roots any variety or forms that are not true. The plot should be allowed to ripen thoroughly when selection of the heads may be done. No heads should be gathered while damp or wet with dew as may be the case early in the morning. At noon an hour can be well spent in selection but the heads should be all gathered at one time if possible.

Selecting The Heads

Enough heads should be gathered to make at least 25 or 30 pounds of threshed grain of either wheat, oats or barley. This will allow of taking out all the small grain from the top and base of the heads when threshed. Of wheat about three good full sacks should be sufficient, or if cut below the heads to make into a sheaf, about four good sized sheaves should be sufficient. The heads may be cut off and placed in sacks or they may be cut off allowing sufficient straw to tie into sheaves. A good plan is to cut the head and place in a basket or large pail that can be carried over the arm. When full they may be emptied into sacks. Care should be taken to have the sacks only half filled to avoid moulding of grain. The sacks when gathered should be hung up in a dry, airy place until a convenient time for threshing. This should be done only when the grain is hardened. If gathered in a sheaf, they should be hung up away from

need a coarse galvanized sieve to allow the wheat and chaff to fall thru into some suitable box or washtub. This when sifted from the broken head, will contain only wheat and chaff. To separate the wheat from the chaff it can be passed from one vessel, such as a large milk pan or pail, to another in the wind. When this is done the grain should be passed over a smaller sized screen to remove the smallest grains. These screens are easily made and can be kept for this purpose. They need not be any larger than about two feet square and can be made with inch lumber strips about three inches deep and nailed together in a square and the wire and galvanized mesh tacked in. In no instance should the selected seed be passed over the fanning mill. It has taken some care and pains to hand select it and it is worth taking care of. If any impurities creep in, the value of the work is lost. The illustrations will show the separation and cleaning process.

When the grain is cleaned it should be placed in a sack and labelled and put away, ready for seeding another plot. In treating this seed for smut, while there may be no trace it is well to do this each season, the sack may be dipped into the solution and drained and covered in the usual way, keeping the seed in the sack until it goes into the seeder.