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Seed Selection on the Farm

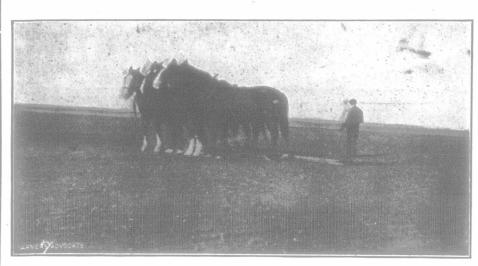
OLLOWING is an address prepared by Seager Wheeler for the Canadian Seed Growers' Association session at the Saskatchewan Provincial convention of agricultural societies at Regina last January:

A few years ago I realized the necessity of sowing only the plumpest and best seed wheat grown on the farm, and it was not long before I saw the good results of this method. In cleaning my seed grain I always use a 8 x 8, or if necessary a No. 7 x 7 wire screen at the the fanning mill three times, taking out all broken and small grains. bushels of wheat and from new breaking and plump seed.

it was stacked.

are yields with the rest of the field, but the balance of the field went 35 bushel an acre. The grain from the seed plot was distinctly noticeable in regard to plumpness and even quality. At the time of cutting we had very high winds, playing havoc with the fields of grain, laying it all ways, so that we could not make a clean sheaf: but when I cut the seed plot it was a pleasure, as the straw stood up so well that I did not make a single ragged sheaf.

Now with regard to selecting my heads of wheat for next season's seed plot (1910). I start at one end of the plot and work to the other end, then working back the other way. The winds bottom of my fanning mill. In cleaning last season made the work difficult to I always put my seed grain through select heads, so that off and on it took aking out me three days to select three good bags In 1906 full, which I find is sufficient. This I obtained from summerfallow 50 amount when threshed should yield 25 to 30 pounds. I secure a little more 48 bushels of wheat to the acre. I am than I need to allow for cleaning out satisfied that these good yields were the any light grains so that when thoroughthe result of sowing only pure, clean ly cleaned I can secure 25 pounds of good, plump grain. I hang the sacks In 1905, I secured 5 pounds of Preston up in a dry shady place until I can wheat from the Indian Head Experi- find time later on to thresh them out mental Farm, which I sowed on a piece with a stick on a hard floor. When of clean land. From this amount I obthreshed if there is any wind I pass it tained 30 pounds of good, clean wheat. through the air from one pan to the I should have had more than this quan- other, taking out the chaff and broken tity but for cattle destroying it after heads; then put aside till a slack time when I can sieve out the rest of the After cleaning I had 20 pounds to broken heads and light grains. I would sow, which in 1906 was put on a piece not trust to cleaning through a fanning of land that was planted to potatoes mill, as there would be too much waste



FOUR HORSES PULL SIX HARROW-SECTIONS ON THE SUMMERFALLOW

this plot yielded 25 bushels.

enough of the plumpest seed I had and sieves sowed it on a special plot of one-fourth of till I just about wiped out that corner the rest. and a light frost on August 13th did not help it any. The seed plot suffered badly, except the corner that I had good seed I obtained from the plot was from this corner.

Up to this time I had not selected pure seed at least, free from other size, evenness and type. varieties and weed seeds.

chaff separately from the red chaff for able to do so as yet, but there are poscomparison, on a piece of summerfal- sibilities in the future for this work the summer I noted the difference; the going to win out to the top if possible. seed plot was fully 6 to 8 inches higher. In treating for smut I have used and gophers cut fully one-third of the better than cure.

At threshing time I could not com- labor.

the previous season. When threshed For such a small amount of seed I consider it best to hand-pick out any white In the spring of 1908 I selected caps, etc., after putting through the

With regard to selection of type I an acre. I generally harrow my fields find that at the outsides of the plot we of grain as much as I possibly can each find stray stools that have long, open season when the grain is up 4 to 6 inches heads which at first sight appear to be high, and this season in getting on the very large heads, but on comparing fields with the harrow I had to cross one these with others in the centre of the corner of the seed plot six or eight times plot they contain no more kernels than I therefore pass these by, of the plot. We were badly rusted out selecting heads that contain not less than eight clusiers on a side (some I find with ten and eleven) and with at least 4 or 5 kernels in a cluster. I look harrowed so severely, and the only for a head that is square, close-jointed and evenly filled from bottom to top. It is surprising what different types one comes across. I have selected some in any heads of wheat from my plot but which it appears impossible for the got some idea as to how to go to work. cluster to set any closer together. I had noticed that this Preston wheat Locking at them sideways they appear was a mixed variety of red and white square. This is the type I am selecting, chaff. During the winter time I se- as much as possible a good, solid, even lected 10 pounds of the white chaff, head. Up to the present I am not able and 25 pounds of the red chaff. I de- to find all the heads exactly the same, cided to select for the white chaff, but but I fully believe that as each season saved the 25 pounds of red chaff to sow comes for making my selection I shall for comparison. I now had a good be enabled to secure enough heads of a foundation to start on. I had secured certain type, all uniform in regard to

With regard to selecting a stiff-straw-Last spring (1909) I sowed the white ed or rust-proof type I have not been The balance of the field was sown I am content to go slow, building up a with the same wheat, containing mixed good foundation. I am as yet just on types of red and white chaff. During the first step of the ladder, but I am

than the rest of the field, and more formalin the last three seasons and I uniform in stand and height, and with did not notice a single smut ball the slightly larger heads. During an ab- past season. I always treat my seed sence from home we had a hot, dry spell whether clean or not. Prevention is

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