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# Pure Seed

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OUR Regenerated Abundance Oats the Saltcoats Agricultural Society November 21st, 1910

The Judge's Score Card Showed: 1. Freedom from Word Seeds 100%

 Freedom from other kinds of grain and useless im-purities, such as chaff, broken grain, etc. . . . . 100% .100% 3. Purity of variety ...

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### The Pure Seed Movement

Continued from Page 9
weeds. Clean fields only produce profitably. When the cost of producing a
grain crop has been considered it will be
clear to the observant farmer that obly
the fields that are fertile, comparatively
free from noxious weeds and properly
cultivated give a profitable crop. The
graped of clean farms cannot be preached
ton bondly or too often. The following
letter has just been received from 8. A
Bedford, of the Field Husbandey Department of the Manitoba Agricultural
collège:

ment of the Manitoba Agricultural college.

"The Field Husbandry Department of the Manitoba Agricultural college has been analysing for weed seeds and testing for germination samples of seed grain sent in by farmers and seed merchants. Up to did over seventy-five samples have been analysed and many of these have been analysed and many of these have been found to contain such a large amount of noxious seeds that the grain is considered unfit for seed purposes. A large number of these samples are from grain that has been shipped in from outside points, and consequently some of the weed seeds are new to the province. One sample of outs received from a consignment shipped to a town in central Manitoba was found to contain the following noxious seeds in one ounce of grain. Two wild outs, three stink-weed, two Canada thielde, six bull mustard, six Amecican designon-head, forty-seven wild lovick wheat, nine pepper grass, twenty-two lambiquarter, fifty pig weed and six wild sun-flowers, heades thirteen kernels of barley and nine of wheat. While this is possibly one of the worst samples received still many others contain enough weed seeds that have to be guarded against, but also the low germination ability of the grain. A large number of the samples tested, especially the outs were found to be weak in vitality only germinating about fifty per cent. One sample from Southern Manitoba germinated only thirty-two per cent, gave a vigorous growth. In view of the above facts the codege would caution the farmers not to sow imported seed until it has been analysed and tested."

Low Germination "The Field Husbandry Department of

#### Low Germination

Low Germination

The low germination of grain made reference to by Mr. Bedford is an important fact that must be borne in mind by every farmer. It is difficult to tell from the appearance of seed its germinating value and the only way to be sure is to have the seed tested. The farmer can send his seed to be tested to the Agricultural college, or he can test it himself: it simply means putting a sample of the grain on a moist substance for a few days and the seeds of strong vitality will readily sprout while the grains of low vitality will either remain inert or be a long time in germinating. By this test the farmer can find out just about what percentage of his seed sown in the spring can be expected to germinate. Oats are often found to have a low germinating value and it has become a practice of many farmers in the West to sow from a bushel to a bushel and a half more than really required, per acre, so as to make sure that there will be a sufficient number of seeds germinate. This method, however, is most unsystematic and mere guess work. Supposing all or nearly all of the oats in this case germinated the field would be too thickly sown, and even if a large number of grains did not germinate it would simply mean that so much grain has been wasted.

Seed Barley

Perhaps one of the most difficult grains to procure good seed of at present is harley. Barley has not been very extensively grown in the West and, as it is usually sown for the purpose of cleaning laid, it is thus difficult to obtain absolutely free from noxious weeds. Flax is also difficult to get free of noxious weeds, and as this crop is being grown more extensively every year in the West on account of the high prices it brings, it behooves farmers to be extremely careful in the selection of their seed. No farmer should sow his land to this crop before first giving the seed a thorough test to see that it does not contain noxious weeds.

Cleaning Seed

#### Cleaning Seed

The cleaning of noxious weeds and grains from grain fit for seed is something which every farmer has to do in the early spring if he hopes to grow a good clean crop. Continued on Page 34



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