

"The season here is fully two weeks later than in Minnesota. Your State Fair is earlier than usual, and the Manitoba crops are not yet threshed. A month later it will be convenient to send a full list of the grain and vegetables of the current year.

"I will add a few words of explanation in regard to the samples herewith forwarded.

"The wheat produced by John Flett (one half bushel) was imported forty years since from England, where it was a fall or winter variety, but in course of its acclimatisation it has become a spring wheat, known as the English.

"It shows some signs of deterioration from constant cultivation on the same farms for nearly half a century, yet a parcel forwarded by me to the Department of Agriculture at Washington was so much esteemed that the Commissioner proposes to circulate a considerable quantity in the United States as 'Manitoba Spring Wheat'. Mr. Flett's farm is on the east bank of Red River, three miles north of Fort Garry.

"I send one-third bushel spring wheat from the farm of John Matheson, in Kildoonan (the Scotch parish) four miles north of Winnipeg, which is mainly the 'English'. A third variety of spring wheat may be termed 'Minnesota Spring', the seed being sent by Mr. N. W. Kittson to Hon. James McKay in the winter of 1868, one-and-a-quarter bushels of which in 1869 produced 44 bushels on one acre, and has since averaged 30 bushels per acre for field cultivation.

"You will notice a few heads of bearded wheat from the farm of John Matheson, second, of Kildoonan. They are from a field of spring wheat in 1871, which bore a considerable crop this head, although left fallow.

"I also send some heads of the 'English spring'.

"I invite your particular attention to the specimen of 'Fultz Winter', grown in St. Boniface, by Mr. Jean Meyer, from seed, furnished me by Mr. Fred. Watts, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture. It was sown October 2, 1871, and harvested August 10, 1872. When the snow disappeared this spring the plants were barely visible, but they came to great perfection, and the yield was at the extraordinary rate of 72 bushels per acre. Results signally remarkable attended the cultivation of the 'Fultz' wheat by Hon. James McKay, of St. James Parish, and Mr. John Matheson.

"Encouraged by these results, the U. S. Department of Agriculture are about to distribute through this Province a liberal supply of Tappahanock and Forzelle Winter Wheat and Winter Rye.

"I am gratified to observe that Commissioner Watts will attend and address the Minnesota State Fair. May I ask that you will personally communicate to him the thanks of the agriculturalists of Manitoba for the distribution of new and valuable seeds in this Province.

"The few ears of corn sent are the squaw variety, grown at the mission of Northern Minnesota. It only reaches the height of three feet, but is very prolific. This specimen was planted by Hugh Polson, of Kildoonan, May 15th, and gathered September 4th.

"The sheaf of 'Fultz' winter wheat is sent to indicate the growth and appearance of the plant.

"I have no doubt that the production of the districts far north of the line of your road will compare favorably with the results of agriculture in similar areas of North Europe.

"I am, Sir,

"Yours truly,

"JAMES W. TAYLOR."