

### Experiences with Preston Wheat.

"New Comer's" request for the publication of experiences with Preston wheat has been met with explicit response. The harvest is over and those who had sown Preston wheat have good reason to congratulate themselves. This is the year that the advocates of Preston have always had in mind when they said there were seasons when an early variety would mean millions of dollars of a saving to the country. The country is learning how great the saving might have been and how great the loss by growing a later variety actually is. The perusal of the following letters will give one a pretty good idea of the relative values of Fyfe and Preston this year. There is the question still unanswered, however, and that is, can Preston be depended upon to always grade as well as it has done since its quite general adoption. That is, is the type so firmly fixed in Preston that it can be depended upon to retain the quality that it now possesses. New varieties and breeds frequently degenerate in becoming adapted to various conditions. There is evidence, however, that Preston wheat can be handled in such a way and is being handled by careful growers so that its best characteristics will become more firmly fixed each year. From the experiences of many growers this year it will be a great wonder if there is not a wild rush to secure all the clean plump Preston available for seed. In such seasons as this, seed of an early variety would have been worth a lot more money than is generally paid for it but of course most men are willing to take a chance on not having such a season again for many years.

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"New Comer" requests information on Preston. This year has been a bad year for grain growers but those who took my advice to prepare for late spring and early frost by growing Preston have succeeded in having a fair sample of grain for seed and for sale. My best Preston is a good sample, grades three northern and weighs upwards of sixty pounds per bushel. Red Fyfe sown side by side with Preston on the same kind of land and on the same day grades No. six northern, weight fifty-four pounds per bushel. A test plot of Preston sown on the 31st of May (a month later) grades No. four northern and weighs fifty-eight pounds per bushel. The Red Fyfe grown side by side of Preston was frozen. The Preston escaped frost, but the beards were partly frozen. If the growers of Red Fyfe had put in Preston in place of Red Fyfe, they would have been thousands of dollars in pocket, instead of having a lot of feed, and no seed, except frozen grain for next year. One of my neighbors told me he had lost a thousand dollars by putting in Red Fyfe in place of Preston. The only grain fit for seed is his plot of Preston. My experience with Red Fyfe has convinced me that my land is not adapted for it; that Preston gives the best results both in yield and earliness, and is a crop that never fails. I have grown Preston for ten years and have never had frozen or smutty grain till this year. A part of the crop this season was cut after a severe frost and of course is frozen, but it is good plump grain fit for seed. My advice to "New Comer" is, try Preston. It is not a soft wheat, it yields greater than Red

Fyfe. It has given the best results at Brandon, fifty-two bushels to the acre, and at Indian Head forty seven, and has left Red Fyfe far behind. The millers may prefer Fyfe in this country but in England they prefer the early varieties. The Preston commands the same price on the market as Red Fyfe and commands a higher figure for seed than any other spring variety. Many growers of Red Fyfe are making enquiries about Preston to-day and believe the time is very near when wheat growers will consider the advisability of growing at least a part Preston in order to secure them against absolute failure. Dr. Saunders says the difference between Red Fyfe and Preston is not worth consideration. If the flour of the two wheats were examined by experts it would be difficult to tell the difference between them. "New Comer," be guided by the instruction given by those men of the Experimental farm who are men of wide experience and who have tested and tried those wheats under various conditions and who have visited most parts of the West and know what is most suitable for each locality. Preston has a great future before it, and will prove a blessing to many new comers.

Moffat, Sask.

MAJOR F. COLES.

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In response to your invitation and your correspondent in issue November 6th, signature "New Comer," and for the benefit of any other readers of the *Advocate* that may be interested in the question of Preston wheat I will give you my experiences.

In the spring of 1905 I received from the Central Experimental farm, a five pound sample of Preston wheat which yielded sufficient seed for about two acres, and it was put in the following spring, 1906. The yield from that again produced sufficient to seed this last spring about twenty-seven acres on a field of eighty acres, all breaking and second crop about equal proportions—the balance about fifty-three acres was sown with Red Fyfe. We commenced to sow on the 16th of May, the Preston wheat the first day as far as it would go, the balance of the field as quick as we could sow it. Preston was ready and we began to cut it on September 4th. The Fyfe we commenced to cut on September 17th and rather green at that. Coming down to the threshing best Preston yielded 721 bushels or a fraction short of twenty-seven bushels to the acre, Fyfe yielded a fraction over twenty bushels per acre. Preston grading No. two northern; Fyfe grading No. four northern. I submit these facts without any personal comment. Your readers can make their own conclusions, and to anyone sufficiently interested and having the opportunity to do so, can make their own comparison of samples I am sending to the Agricultural College.

Franklin, Man.

RICHARD STOREY.

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A "New Comer", in your issue of the 6th inst. enquires as to the merits of Preston wheat and you ask for the experience of growers thereof. I sowed one hundred and fifty acres of this variety and lacking seed added ten acres of Red Fyfe—Seeding commenced May 13th and finished May

25th. The soil was breaking and stubble plowing, the season unfavorable. On September 2nd commenced cutting on breaking. Snow and frost came on the 12th and cutting was finished on the 18th. The yield was twelve bushel to the acre, the Preston went four northern and the Red Fyfe two feed.

The question of merit is decided by what we can grow rather than by what variety we wish for. Fruit growing is precarious and the elimination of the frost risk counts for much, how much can be determined when I write that after an inspection not five per cent. of wheat in this township will grade. The early cutting of Preston gives us the first threshing, first cars, first market and some three weeks longer for fall work.

As to millers' grades, I mention the opinion that as these gentlemen are buyers (who charge us one cent per bushel for their kindness) they are not our best authorities on the merits of wheat. They are self interested and say "Tis naught, 'tis naught and go on their way and boasteth." Millers object to White Fyfe, yet the chemist of the Central Experimental farm reports quite as favorable a quality of flour as that from Red Fyfe. A blister on the bran of wheat at once degrades the sample, even though the grain is purchased for flour making. In short, the miller is on the alert for any signs that will enable him to reduce the price. Samples of Preston and Fyfe were submitted to milling chemists of London and Minneapolis, and these gentlemen report in favor of Fyfe by a figure so small as to be negligible. Preston is a new wheat that is susceptible of improvement by any intelligent farmer.

The average yield of Preston, from results obtained at all experimental farms for a period of nine years, is thirty-four bushels and forty-four pounds, whilst Red Fyfe for the same period averages thirty-three bushels and seven pounds.

What difference would it have made to farmers this year had all sown Preston in place of Fyfe? Figure it out. Whilst some farmers of the West desire to raise a monument to the originator of Red Fyfe, I and other Preston growers have a crop of grain in place of Fyfe feed and so bear testimony to the skill of the originator, Chas. E. Saunders, Ph. D.

Bladworth, Sask.

WM. H. RAMSAY

\* \* \*

#### EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The article "Experience with Preston Wheat Wanted" in the issue of November 6th hits me on a very tender spot, as I am a firm believer in Preston wheat. Last year I sowed ten bushels which I got from Brandon. From this I threshed thirty-two bushels. It lacked one bushel (on the piece) of going forty-seven bushels to the acre. It matured four days earlier than the Fyfe. This year I sowed Preston altogether with a result that I have no frost wheat. Where this wheat is sold on the market there are very few buyers who know the difference between it and Fyfe, and as to the hardness of it I doubt if there is difference enough in it, I mean between Preston and Red Fyfe, to notice. When Preston Wheat is termed a soft wheat it must be by people who have not seen much of it. I had a small piece of summer-fallow that ran up near thirty this year. I have a neighbor who sowed one hundred acres of Preston and one hundred acres of Red Fyfe with the result that the former was in the stook and the latter standing uncut when the frost came. One great advantage is the early maturing; it gets the threshing over a week or ten days earlier, because the weather as a rule is dry and warm then. A few days at that time means twice as many later on. I believe in a few years Preston will class with Red Fyfe. Last year my Preston graded one northern and none of the Red Fyfe right here amongst my neighbors beat it.

Saskatoon.

W. L. D.

### Motors Ready.

The representative of the Universal Motor Co. of Regina writes to take exception to the statement contained in an article in our issue of November 6th to the effect that as yet there are no light motors on the Canadian market. Strong claims are made for the Universal Motor, which, if substantiated upon the farms of Western Canada, we shall see this machine solving one of the most vexing problems of the day. We shall wait anxiously the advent of this or any other motor on the farms to take the place of some of the horses that every man has to keep but which are rather expensive power.



NEW COUNTRY NEAR MUNDARE, ALTA.