FARM

Calculating the Value of Grades.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I would like to point out the injustice of our present grading system, when the difference between two grades is calculated upon its actual value. One Hard calls for 75 per cent. Red Fife wheat, the remaining 25 per cent. I presume could be composed of White Fife, White Russian, or any other sound wheat, weighing 60 lbs. per bushel. One Northern calls for 60 per cent. of Red Fife wheat and 40 per cent. say as above mentioned, White Russian, if plump and sound weighing 60 lbs. per bushel, used to grade a Northern but the Grain Exchange made a difference in price between a Hard and a Northern of from 2 to 3 cents. Now what is the real difference in value according to the grades. The only difference is the percentage of value on the 15 per cent. of Red Fife in the one Hard grade. Suppose this 15 per cent. in a Northern to be worth 3 cents per bushel less than its equivalent in the Hard grade, then two bushels of Hard would only be worth 45 cents more than the same amount of Northern, or only quite one half a cent per bushel. It is clearly not in the interest of the producer that wheat should be graded and I should like to see at least the Northern grade abolished.

Man.

Mechanical Grading of Wheat.

We republish by special request the gist of a paper on The grading of wheat by mechanical means, namely by the use of the Special Aspirator. The frequently expressed dissatisfaction with the grading system now in vogue will ensure a careful consideration of and mechanical method, we commend the article to the machine, of which we shall have more to say anon, to the careful consideration of grain growers.

My method of marketing wheat would necessarily change the present method of grading and the present inspection of wheat, in the general markets, this, of course, would mean a very radical change in the buying and selling of wheat, but I believe a very radical change is necessary if such change would bring better results to the milling fraternity.

"To begin with, I might state that the present method of grading soft red winter wheat is not satisfactory, for many reasons, one or two of which I will mention. First, there is too wide a difference in quality between the highest and lowest of each grade, that is, a good No. 2 is far superior wheat to a scratch No. 2. Second, there is too much latitude allowed in the mixing of wheat by public and private elevators. Third, because a No. 2 soft red wheat in one market is not necessarily graded the same in other markets. Fourth, because the inspection in different markets varies according to the quality and quantity of the crop.

"If the present method of grading wheat is, therefore, unsatisfactory, in what manner can it be changed so as to give more satisfactory results to all concerned? This would mean a new set of inspection rules, and a new method of inspection.

"As to what would [illegible] method of buying and inspecting wheat, Mr. Anderson believed these things should be accomplished:

Uniform inspection in all markets.

Discontinuing the inspection of wheat by grades.

Inspecting wheat by weight and soundness only.

All sound milling wheat deliverable on contracts.

All certificates of inspection to state the actual amount of clean wheat and the test weight of the clean wheat per bushel, also the amount of dockage and waste matter, and state whether sound or not.

All wheat bought and sold by its clean test.

A [illegible] difference in value to be established between each grade and this difference based on a dockage basis.

Sixty-pound clean test basis for all purchases and sales.

[illegible] test weight than 60 pounds, purchaser to pay difference as established to seller.