

although they have published a definite offer to all and sundry that they will accept delivery of warehouse receipts of all No. 1 C.W. seed oats inspected into any of the Government terminal elevators, and pay therefor a premium of five cents per bushel in advance of the closing price for the day for the same commercial grade of oats on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

Many of the cars of oats offered are found to contain two or three wild oats per pound, but are otherwise of excellent quality, and would grade No. 1 seed. In consideration therefore of the unusual shortage of seed oats I have therefore authorized grade for No. 2 seed oats, which will be in every respect the same as No. 1 seed oats, except that they may contain not more than eight wild oats to the pound. These No. 2 seed oats are being specially binned in the Government terminal elevators where they may be held intact until about the opening of navigation. They will remain the property of the shipper and may be purchased through the usual channels of the grain trade at a premium of two or three cents per bushel. It is believed that there will be a fairly large supply of seed oats of this quality.

I am not recommending the farmers of Ontario to buy No. 2 C.W. seed oats because they are not free from wild oats. Even the No. 1 C.W. seed oats are free from wild oats only within the meaning of the Seed Control Act which allows one wild oat per pound. In my judgment the farmers would be well advised thoroughly to clean their own oats to a weight of not less than thirty pounds per measured bushel rather than to introduce wild oats on clean land. Many farmers who can afford it would doubtless prefer to pay the higher price for Prince Edward Island grown

seed of the Banner variety than to use No. 1 C.W. seed oats, which are considered practically free from noxious weed seeds, but which are composed of a mixture of varieties of oats of the long white type.

The farmers of Ontario will do well to understand that if their own oat supplies are unsuitable for seed then they should not defer placing order for their seed oats until after the first of March. The action recently taken in the Prairie provinces is calculated to stimulate the prompt movement of the best quality of oats in the Prairie provinces, considered from the viewpoint of seed purposes, and by the middle of February wholesale seed and grain merchants should be in a position to procure car loads of re-cleaned seed to fill reasonable requirements from the retail trade. Car loads of oats at the Government terminal elevators at Calgary, if ordered by the middle of February, would reach Ontario points about a month later. Retail seed grain dealers throughout the province may be disposed to purchase supplies somewhat in excess of their requirements in former years but after making reasonable allowance for the provision that may be made by the wholesale and retail grain trade those farmers who defer procuring their supplies of seed oats until late in the season may find it to be practically impossible to procure oats that may be considered at all suitable for seeding.

It is necessary also to warn Ontario farmers against buying oats that are known under the grade nomenclature of "Feed" oats. Most farmers and many local grain dealers do not fully understand that the term "Feed" in official grades of oats, as "No. 1 feed oats," implies that the oats have been frozen or are otherwise unsound. Extra No. 1 and No. 1 feed oats are