

DIVISION OF CEREALS.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS, 1914.

BY

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AND THE

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE BRANCH EXPERIMENTAL FARMS AND STATIONS.

NOTES ON IMPORTANT VARIETIES OF GRAIN.

PIONEER WHEAT.

The need of a very early ripening variety of wheat capable of producing straw of fair length when grown in rather dry districts has led to the introduction of Pioneer. While this variety may not prove entirely satisfactory in all cases, it can be confidently recommended as the only wheat, available to the public, which has the qualities of good appearance, exceptional hardness and high weight per bushel, excellent baking strength of the flour and good yield, combined with exceptional earliness and fair ability to resist drought and to produce straw of moderate length even under dry conditions. It is recommended for trial in localities where Marquis wheat cannot be depended on to ripen before frost, and where the rainfall is not sufficient to ensure success with Prelude.

Pioneer is a selection from the progeny of a cross made in 1903 by the Dominion Cerealists between Riga and Preston wheats. In earliness the new variety stands between the two parents, or it may be described as ripening about midway between Prelude and Marquis. Pioneer is bearded and has smooth chaff. The straw is of fair length, rather long for so early a wheat, and though not of very great strength it appears to be quite strong enough for the districts for which it is recommended. Pioneer should not be sown in any locality where the tendency is towards long straw. Under such conditions the straw of this variety would probably be too long and weak. Furthermore, Pioneer is liable to rust and other diseases in moderately moist climates.

The kernels of Pioneer are red and of exceptional hardness and high weight per bushel. The flour obtained from it is of excellent colour and very high baking strength.

ABUNDANCE OATS.

In past years Abundance oats have been recommended as about equal in value to the old standard sort, Banner. Without endorsing any of the remarkable claims that have been made in favour of Abundance, it must be admitted that it has shown itself a very good variety. But after careful tests for several years on a number of farms, enough evidence has been accumulated to show that in spite of its excellent qualities this oat is not superior in any point to Banner, and is indeed usually a little inferior to it. The so-called "Regenerated Abundance" has not shown any material difference from the older stock. In my opinion, Abundance has never been sufficiently tested