



7703

Government of the Province of Saskatchewan

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## VARIETIES OF SMALL GRAINS FOR SASKATCHEWAN

BY JOHN BRACKEN AND G. H. CUTLER,

*Professors of Field Husbandry, University of Saskatchewan.*

### WHEAT.

The characteristics essential in Saskatchewan wheats are high quality and high yield. In addition to these, early maturity, non-shattering propensity, strong straw, and disease resistance, are characteristics to be desired.

*Red Fife* is high in yield, high in quality, long in the straw and rather late in maturing. It is suited to the lighter and earlier types of soil, to the drier parts of the province, to all regions where fall frosts are not feared, and where long straw is desired.

*Marquis* is high in yield, high in quality, rather short in the straw, and early in maturing. This variety is likely to give more satisfactory returns than *Red Fife* on heavy soils, on fallowed land, in moist regions where fall frosts are feared and in those areas where a short straw is preferred.

Excepting in earliness and length of straw, *Marquis* and *Red Fife* do not differ materially. Both are beardless wheats, having a white chaff. The seed of *Marquis* is generally shorter, plumper, darker in colour and heavier per measured bushel than that of *Red Fife*.

On clay loam soil at Saskatoon, *Red Fife* has averaged about one-half bushel more per acre than *Marquis*, but its poorer quality in areas of early fall frosts has more than off-set this advantage. At Indian Head on a heavier type of soil the average yield and the quality as well has been very much higher for *Marquis* than for *Red Fife*.

*The Blue Stem Wheats* commonly grown in the Dakotas and Minnesota are of good quality and produce fair yields. They are, however, later in maturing than *Red Fife* and shatter more freely. On account of its later maturity it should not be used.

*The Hybrid Wheats—Preston, Stanley, Huron, and Percy*—are inferior in milling value to both *Marquis* and *Red Fife*. They are all early, not differing materially from *Marquis* and *Red Fife*, and most of them are productive. They have been discarded by all the experimental farms on account of their inferior quality.