

Mr. LOVIE: The dry climate of California was what was making me doubtful of the quality of the barley.

Prof. HARRISON: The climate that you require for the high class two-row barley is probably somewhat different from the climate required for the high class six-row barley. In two-row barley they want a thin hull; they want it starchy, and they want the protein—I say nitrogen—they want the nitrogen from one to 1.5 per cent on an oven dried basis. In the six-row barley they want this thicker hull, and they will take a higher percentage of nitrogen, indicating that that barley has been grown with a hotter maturation period. The six-row barley also must be what they term sunny or bright, and the brightness is the thing that they get in California. They get it around San Antonia in Chili and they get it also in and around the Mediterranean countries, and I do not see why we should not have that here, with the result that I think there is a possibility of developing a barley here suited for that trade. The coast barley are probably not just suited to our particular type of climate.

Mr. LOVIE: We could get, in Manitoba, our barley a good deal brighter if we threshed it when it was ready.

Mr. STEEDSMAN: Coming from Manitoba, as I do, I realize—and I am sure that the Committee will realize—that this is a very vital question there. I would like to ask the representatives of the Agricultural College of Manitoba, and the Federal Agricultural Representatives here, if they have devised any scheme, or if they now have anything in mind whereby they could outline to the various districts in Manitoba, or practically all over the west—because the need is spreading every day—some way of arriving at the most suitable varieties for the various locations, such as was adopted by Professor Newman's department with regard to varieties of wheat. Tests were made all over the country in that regard. Barley is now really a more important product in Manitoba than wheat, and I would like to know whether there is anything of that kind, or what is being done at the present time at our experimental stations; what effort is being put forth to decide which varieties are most suitable for the different conditions,—cleaning conditions of the soil, summer fallow conditions, and variations of soil and climate?

Professor HARRISON: You are familiar with the work that is being done with wheat varieties. Professor Newman's department, the college in Manitoba, and the Manitoba pool are tied up with that investigation, and along with that, but not nearly as extensive as that, there is a small amount of work being done on barley. It is hard to get a grower who will take these varieties and give them the same chance as he will wheat, because everybody still thinks of wheat as the main crop. But wherever we can get a grower who will test barley varieties we are doing that. The experimental stations and colleges have endeavoured to provide or develop varieties suited for these different trades and they have also endeavoured to determine where the better quality of the different varieties can be produced. That is not being done as thoroughly as it should, but we have in mind such a thing as that for Manitoba at least.

The witnesses retired.

The Committee adjourned until Friday, May 17 at 11 a.m.