

AGRONOMY

SEED SELECTION. PURE SEED.

J. C. Hogenson.

In visiting different parts of the state it is seldom that a person comes across a field of pure wheat, a field contains generally from two to ten varieties. This is a very deplorable condition and must be overcome before the farmers can expect to be recognized as successful first-class wheat growers, and before they can expect to receive the highest price for their wheat. It is with wheat as with livestock, pure bred animals are always worth a great deal more than the grades.

I would advise farmers who have a mixture of grains to spend a day or so in their field or at their stacks and select by hand enough heads of the variety which does best on their land, thresh it by hand if necessary and seed by itself in a small patch to be used for seed the following year. In this way it will only be a short time until a farmer will have his entire farm seeded to pure strains of wheat. He will thus have a better wheat, will increase his yield per acre, and will be able to secure a higher price. His wheat will also be in demand by other farmers for seed wheat.

Farmers make a mistake in growing too many varieties. If they get down to growing only one or two of a uniform quality, that is particularly adapted to their section of the country, the more prosperous will they become. When this has been accomplished then a particular section will become known and recognized for a particular variety of wheat. This variety will then be demanded from that section by the trade and the highest possible market price will be paid, because if the same variety is grown on all the farms in a certain locality it can be taken out in train-load lots. Farmers should seek for uniformity of product so as to secure the highest possible market price.

A Grain Drill on Every Farm.

We have had a good deal to say about the importance of using the grain drill. We have pointed out that it saves seed; that five pecks of wheat or other grain sown with a drill will give better results than six sown broadcast; that the seed is put in at

uniform depth, comes up uniformly, develops uniformly and ripens uniformly; that it is more rust resistant on account of being better aerated, and that there is a better stand of grass when the small grain is sown in drills than when sown broadcast.

We take up the subject again because the time is at hand when farmers will be preparing their ground for winter wheat. While it pays to use a drill in any kind of spring grain, it is folly to take the chances of failure of a stand of winter wheat by saving on the expense of a drill. While we have known many good crops of winter wheat when sown broadcast, the man who broadcasts his winter wheat invites failure; and we have no hesitation in saying that no man who has forty acres of winter wheat to sow can afford to take the chances of sowing it broadcast. Take it one year with another the increased yield will pay for the drill.

If you are experimenting with winter wheat, make your experiment a fair one and don't invite failure by putting it in broadcast on a poorly prepared seed bed. One reason why the winter wheat region is extending northward so slowly is because farmers frequently sow it in violation to all the established principles which govern in the growth of winter wheat.

We have been receiving quite a number of reports of crops of from thirty to forty bushels of winter wheat per acre, from readers who have been following our suggestions which we submit pays much better than even the best crops of spring wheat, oats or barley in the same locality.—Wallace's Farmer.

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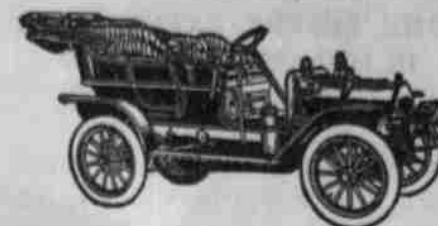
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