

had seed-wheat of given varieties for sale, and the growers have made their own arrangements with all inquirers, charging what price they wished—generally about 1s. per bushel above milling-price. During the present season, however, all wheat produced was purchased by the Government at a fixed price, and this would have resulted in all the pedigree seed wheat being sold in bulk lots to the millers if it had not been for the action of the President of the Board of Trade and the Wheat Controller. They made an arrangement whereby growers of certified seed were enabled to secure some increased price for their seed, so that the production of it in future years might be encouraged. For this action all wheat-growers render hearty thanks. The Minister of Agriculture has further shown his interest in this work by renewing the grant for the travelling-expenses of the inspector for another three years.

As a rule the whole of the seed produced has found ready buyers, the amount changing hands being about 3,000 bushels each season. This year, however, the production was larger, while the demand for certain varieties was becoming satisfied by purchases in past seasons, so that some hundreds of bushels have remained on hand.

Before concluding it is necessary to remove two misapprehensions that are commonly found in regard to the certified wheat. Firstly, the seed is not necessarily machine-dressed. Almost any wheat may be made to look well by screening it, but the goodness of the certified wheat lies in its purity, not in its looks. Purity can be judged only on the standing crop, and therefore it is on the standing crop that the certificate is issued. Secondly, the certificate means no more than it says. The seed will not necessarily give a better crop than ordinary seed, unless it is certified seed of a tested strain.

The isolation and testing of pure strains is a work undertaken by the Canterbury Agricultural College, not by the Seed-growers' Association; but as it is these strains that the association has mostly dealt with some particulars of their performances are appropriate here.

RECORD OF COLLEGE HUNTERS.

Harvest.	College Strain.	Commercial Seed.	Remarks.
1911 ..	5th best plant in 1,000
1912 ..	118 per cent. ..	100 per cent.
1913 ..	108 " ..	100 "
1914 ..	63 bushels per acre	50 bushels per acre	Five plots of $\frac{1}{2}$ acre each.
1915	{ 64 " "	56 " "	Ditto.
	{ 40 " "	29 " "	12 acres each.
	{ 27 " "	25 " "	Field at Rakaia.
	{ 26 " "	20 " "	Field at Kirwee.

In 1916 the College strain was distributed to thirty-three growers, of whom twenty-five reported trials evidencing superiority of strain over their own seed. A miller reported, "Best sample of Hunters I have ever seen."

In 1917 and 1918 the College strain was grown by hundreds of farmers with general satisfaction, and gave on the College plots an increase of 4 bushels per acre in excess of the commercial seed.