THE CHARACTER OF 1919 CROP SPRING WHEAT DOCKAGE.1

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During the crop year 1919–1920 the Minnesota Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Minnesota State Grain Inspection Department, conducted an investigation of dockage in spring wheat. As one phase of this investigation the dockage removed from a large number of samples was separated into its several components, and the proportion of each was determined. Two series of samples were employed: (a) four 100 sample lots of spring wheat representing inspection samples drawn by the State Grain Inspection Department at Minneapolis over a period of about eight months, and (b) samples of spring wheat collected by representatives of the Experiment Station and the State Grain Inspection Department from country elevators in the principal wheat producing sections of the State.

Dockage was separated in the manner customary to the inspection and grading of spring wheat. The total dockage was then divided into three groups or classes of material as follows: (1) coarse fraction, after separation of wild oats; (2) wild oats; and (3) fine seeds and dirt. The first fraction consisted chiefly of tame oats, barley, straw nodes, rose hips and the like. The second group was, as indicated, made up entirely of wild oats, while the character of the third group is shown in Table 2.

Table 1 gives the average percentage of each of these three fractions, the total of the three fractions, and the percentage of dockage as determined by the State Grain Inspection Department. The difference between the latter and the total found in this laboratory is not great. It is, moreover, not far different from the average dockage found in all samples of spring wheat inspected by the State Grain Inspection Department during the 1919 crop season, which

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