

country. During 1946 the price differential has reflected the shortage of durum wheat as the price offered for the year averaged 5 cents above common wheat as indicated by mimeographed reports issued by the Bureau of Agric. Econ.

Durum wheat, during the past 40 years, has developed from a small beginning into an important element of our agriculture. During these years it has been the subject of much controversy. The wheat has been vigorously denounced or ardently defended, depending upon the point of view. The real source of the differences of opinion, we know now, was the lack of rust resistant varieties of common wheat. We have these now and a proper price differential should provide the trade with a sufficient sup-

ply of durum wheat. It must be remembered that there is considerable lag between relative price changes and a corresponding change on the farm, in switching from one class of wheat to another.

Notable work has been done in the breeding of durum wheat by Glenn Smith, a federal agronomist located at North Dakota experiment station. The new varieties bred by him, Carleton and Stewart, have become of importance and his present work points the way to even greater improvements. We should see in the future the introduction of high-yielding varieties with stiffer straw and earlier ripening which will largely set aside the objections which have been raised against the growing of durum wheat.

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### STEWART DURUM ACCEPTED IN CANADA

The new durum variety, Stewart, has been licensed for growing in Canada. Approval of Stewart came after the customary trial period of three years, in which it was tested in the Canadian Durum Co-operative Test at various experiment stations in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Both Carleton and Stewart durums were released in 1943 by the North Dakota Experiment Station. The new durums have behaved similarly in Canadian and United States experiments. Both varieties have proven consistently better than Mindum or Pelissier in stem rust resistance, and both are excellent in macaroni quality. Stewart has generally yielded better than Mindum or Carleton, and resists shattering, but Carleton has stiff straw and performs well on summer fallow. Both varieties are becoming widely established in the durum area of the United States.

Carleton was previously licensed for distribution in Canada in 1944. This official approval is necessary in Canada before any wheat variety can enter the top market grades. (H.L.W.)