

CORN-GROWING IN MANITOBA

The question may be asked: Why should corn be grown in Manitoba? Since Manitoba is the very centre of the hard wheat belt and many hundreds of miles north of the centre of the corn belt, why not stick to our wheat and let the people of the south grow the corn?

The first answer to this question is that we can grow a considerable quantity of corn on the land now in use in Manitoba without decreasing the output of wheat by a bushel. Corn-growing does not of necessity mean the displacing of wheat but may, rather, help us to continue to grow that cereal. While an attempt to grow nothing but wheat will eventually make profitable wheat-growing impossible, a balanced system of agriculture, with corn as an important crop, will keep the yield of wheat up to virgin-prairie standard. There is no reason why wheat should not continue to be the principal money-making crop in Manitoba for many years, but the amount of income from it will be increased rather than decreased if cattle are kept as a profitable side line, if corn is grown for them on land that would otherwise be summerfallow or stubble crop, and if the fertility and physical condition of the soil are kept up by the use of the manure.

CORN GROWN SUCCESSFULLY.

While it is true that Manitoba is north of the district usually considered as the corn belt, nevertheless corn for fodder may be grown here with success. This has been demonstrated in a practical manner by farmers in all parts of the province as well as by the Experimental Farm. While it has been ripened occasionally, the production of ripe grain cannot be considered as being on a profitable basis. But with the right varieties and proper cultivation, the production of a satisfactory yield of fodder corn is as certain as that of any other successful crop, and the amount of fodder produced is greater than can be obtained from any other crop at present known.

CORN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR SUMMERFALLOW.

The system of summerfallowing, which has given such good results in western Canada, is not without its faults. So long as land is cheap and abundantly fertile, it is a very satisfactory means of keeping up the yield of grain. But with land becoming more expensive and at the same time its virgin fertility being depleted, some system needs to be adopted that is less extravagant of soil fertility than straight grain-growing and summer fallow. While it is possible to adopt a rotation that provides for the use of barnyard manure without including corn, still, the addition of corn makes it more practicable and better balanced. The principal advantage that corn has over summerfallow is in making possible the profitable use of the land every year. Summerfallowing may insure an excellent crop of grain the following year, but it does so at the loss of a year's use of the land. Corn will give as good results as the fallow and it pays for the use of the land and for the work expended on it by giving a large crop of excellent forage.

It may seem strange that corn will give practically as good a following crop as summerfallow but it nevertheless is true, as has been demonstrated in practice. The yield in bushels will probably be slightly less, but the crop ripens from ten days to two weeks earlier, and is much easier to handle on account of having shorter, stiffer straw that is less apt to lodge and requires less twine. From the experience of a number of seasons on the Experimental Farm, it is apparent that wheat after corn is