

SOIL PREPARATION.

Corn planted on fallowed land returns very much larger yields of fodder than that sown on either fall or spring ploughing. Fallowed land that has been manured before ploughing is probably the best form of preparation. The crop may be planted on fall or spring ploughing, in which case it will, to a limited degree, take the place of the fallow. It is not expected that this crop will replace the fallow in the drier part of Saskatchewan, but if it is thoroughly intertilled and all weed growth controlled there is no doubt that it will lessen very materially the necessity of such frequent fallowing as we are now practising.

If the land is grassy fall ploughing is preferable; if clean, thorough surface cultivation in the fall, followed by spring ploughing, well worked down immediately after, the operation is likely to prove satisfactory in the average season. If planted on fall or spring ploughing the land should be well firmed down and the surface thoroughly cultivated. Well rotted manure ploughed under is likely to prove advantageous if the season is not too dry. Strawy manure should, however, not be ploughed under the year the corn is planted. Thorough preparation of the surface soil is more essential for the corn crop than for any other cereal.

THE CHOICE OF VARIETIES.

The corn crop unlike many others offers the grower very great opportunity for selection. The early maturing types are all short, the late maturing ones tall, and there are many intermediate forms. For grain or for "hogging off," "Squaw," "Free Press" or "Patterson" and "Gehu" are the most promising sorts. These are very short but very early.

For forage the taller growing flints and the early dents are the most satisfactory. Among these "North Western Dent," "Longfellow," "Compton's Early" and "North Dakota White" are good sorts. "North Western Dent" and "Longfellow" are among the most commonly grown varieties at the present time.

The taller maturing "dent" sorts commonly grown in the corn belt are so late in maturing that they seldom form ears in this climate. The quality of the forage is therefore much poorer than that from the earlier maturing varieties, and they are consequently not recommended.

TESTING THE SEED.

The percentage and vigour of germination of the seed should be determined before planting. This information, which for corn is more important than for any other crop, can be obtained easily and quickly by either the blotting paper or the soil method of testing. Seed that does not give a high germination test should either be discarded or a larger quantity of seed used.