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Scientific Farming

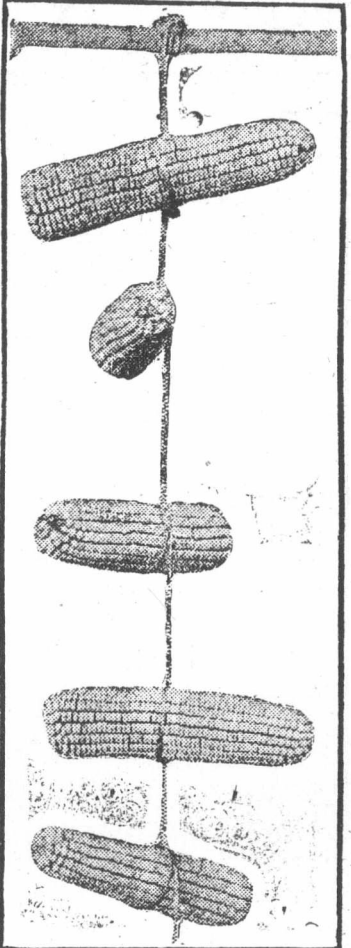
TESTING SEED CORN.

Crop Depends Upon Soundness and
Quality of the Seed.

April is a good month in which to
make the germination test for seed
corn, says a contributor to the Farm
Progress. A vitality or germination
test should always be made, no matter
how good the seed corn looks or
where it has been stored.

Even though you picked it very
carefully last fall under what looked
like ideal conditions, it is not safe to
put it into the ground without having
given it the regular test. No matter
how it was picked or where it was
stored, you cannot be sure. Water,
weather, temperature, and other fac-
tors you may have overlooked or
been unable to control may have
made your picked seed corn just
about worthless for planting pur-
poses.

There is just one way to make sure
of what you are doing, and that is to
put it through the most rigid tests
that can be given under the vitality
or germination method. You want
to remember that on the soundness
and the quality of this corn you are
gambling the sum total of your sum-
mer's sweat in that cornfield. If it is



SEED CORN.

not what it should be you are wast-
ing a large percentage of every day's
work from the time you stick the
plowshare in the ground till the day
the yield is cribbed.

If the seed has been carefully se-
lected, stored in a dry and well ven-
tilated room out of the way of rats
and mice; if it has been thoroughly
dried and has stood low temperatures
without injury it is likely that the
germinating power is what it should
be, but the only sure way to tell be-
fore planting it is to test it out. Tests
should be made several weeks before
the corn is to be put in the soil;
otherwise there will be little time to
secure and test new seed.

In all cases every ear should be en-
tered for the test. A very good way
is to use a box about eighteen inches
square and about three inches deep.
Fill this just about two-thirds full of
clean sand or sawdust. I like saw-
dust much better, as I have had much
better results with it. Level the
sand or the sawdust down smoothly
and moisten it. Don't get it sopping
wet, but have it damp enough to give
the water a chance to soften the cov-
ering on the grains.

Take the ears of corn to be tested,
lay them on a floor or table in double
rows, placing the ears tip to tip.
Number every tenth ear by a slip of
paper or a tag stuck between the
ears. Then cover the sand or the
sawdust with a piece of white cloth
marked off into inch and a half
squares. Use an indelible pencil for
the markings and number the
squares consecutively.

Take from each ear at various
places between the tip and the butt
five grains. In the squares place five
grains from each ear, seeing that the
grains from an ear having a certain
number are placed in the square hav-
ing that number.

Cover the grains over with another
strip of close woven cloth. The cloth
should be just tightly woven enough

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

to keep the sprouts from coming
through; and over this spread a
piece of burlap well soaked. Some
people use blotting paper for this
purpose.

Put the testing box in the living
room or somewhere else where the
temperature is always about the
same. It should not be colder than
55 degrees at night, and in anywhere
from four to six days the grains will
begin to sprout. Any ear that fails
to have five kernels that will germinate
should be thrown out of the seed
corn pile.

Keep the house plants clean and
you will not be bothered with mealy
bug or aphids.

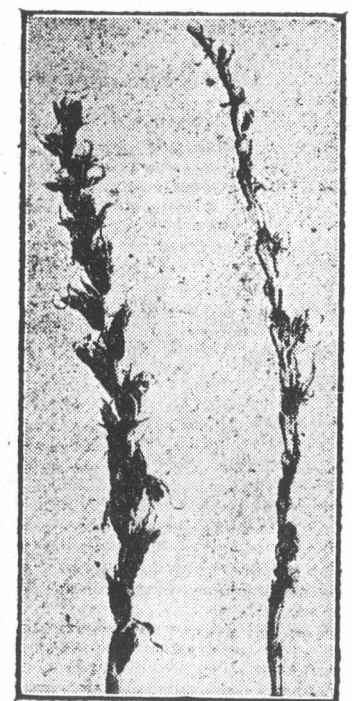
Farm and Garden

OAT SMUT PREVENTION.

How to Treat the Seed With Formal-
in Solution.

The average annual losses from
smut in oats are greater than those
caused by any other preventable
disease in Canada. Treating the
seed with hot water or with for-
maldehyde solution before sowing is
an easy, cheap, and effective way of
preventing this disease. The latter
method, which is the one most avail-
able for general use, is here briefly
summarized.

Mix the formalin (a commercial
preparation which is 37 per cent.
formaldehyde by weight) with water
at the rate of a pound (a little less
than a pint) to forty gallons of wa-
ter. The grain may be either loosely
tubed in sacks or put loose into a
tub or vat with the solution. Agi-
tate the sacks or stir the loose grain
occasionally so that the entire sur-
face of every grain will be thor-
oughly wet. Instead of being immersed,
the seed oats may be spread on a



EXAMPLE OF OAT SMUT.

clean floor or canvas and sprinkled
with the solution and shoveled over
during the process so that they will
be wet evenly, as in the other meth-
od. Not over a gallon of solution
will be needed for every bushel of
grain. After sprinkling shovel
the seed into a pile, cover it with
sacks wet with the solution, and al-
low it to stand for at least two
hours before spreading it out to dry.

Precautions.—The oats may be
seeded as soon as dry enough to run
through the drill. If the seed is still
moist, however, the drill must be set
to sow more to the acre than if it is
dry. The quantity which should be
sown may be determined by measur-
ing a given bulk before and after
treatment and figuring the propor-
tion of increase. After treating do
not expose the seed to freezing until
it is thoroughly dry.

Do not allow the treated seed to
come into contact with old sacks,
bins, or machinery in which there
may be smut spores. If such must
be used seal them or wash them first
with the formaldehyde solution.

MORE MEN THAN WOMEN HAVE APPENDICITIS

Surgeons state men are slightly more
subject to appendicitis than women.
Watford people should know that a few
doses of simple buckthorn-bark, glycer-
ine, etc., as mixed in Adler-ika, often
relieve or prevent appendicitis. This
mixture removes such surprising foul
matter that ONE SPOONFUL relieves
almost ANY CASE constipation, sour
stomach or gas. The INSTANT, easy
action of Adler-ika is surprising.
Taylor & Son, druggists

HANGING PICTURES.

This is a Task That Should Produce
Artistic Results.

In going over one's pictures elimi-
nate all but the choicest and best be-
loved and try to group together the
pictures whose subjects are somewhat
related or which have a similarity in
frames. Indeed, even when subjects
are closely related it is not possible al-
ways to hang pictures together owing
to a too great difference in the kind of
frames. As a rule, any room looks
better, especially small rooms, where
only one color frame is used on all pic-
tures, but if this is not possible then
the next best thing is to keep all of
the pictures in gilt frames in one part
of the room, all of the dark framed
pictures on another wall, etc.

Also one can get the best results by
separating water colors and prints,
and etchings or engravings should, of
course, always be hung apart from
other pictures. Another point frequ-
ently overlooked is the wisdom of putting
the darker pictures on the wall that
receives the best light from windows
and contrariwise the gilt framed pic-
tures of lighter subjects where they
may serve to brighten a dark part of
the room.

Finally do not crowd the walls. Hang
pictures well in line with the eyes of a
person of average height and, of course,
choose plain walls, tinted or papered,
for backgrounds.

How Tea Is Named.

In India and Ceylon teas are named
according to the different leaves of the
plant. The two small leaves at the tip
of the shoot produce, as a rule, the
best tea, known as "flowery" and "or-
ange" pekoe. Pekoe without an ad-
jective (literally "white down") is made
from the leaf immediately below those
of the orange and flowery. Next in
the descending scale is the leaf of the
somewhat coarser soucheon ("little
sprouts"), and lower still are larger
leaves yielding Congou (laborer's tea), or
tea on which much labor is required
to make it fit for the market and
Bohea. Blended tea is now often de-
scribed as "congou." Originally the
name Bohea applied to any kind
of black tea, it being assumed that it
all came from Wui (pronounced by the
Chinese Bu)—London Chronicle.

When Pens Were First Used.

About the year 600 A. D. pens made
of quills were introduced. This is
shown by the fact that the word pen-
na, a quill, is not found, it is claimed,
in any work bearing an earlier date.
Previous to that time the word calamus,
signifying a reed, was exclusive-
ly employed as a designation for the
vehicle used in transferring the ink to
the parchment or other surface select-
ed by the writers of that early age.
Steel pens first came into use in 1503.
At about twenty-two years later those
composed of gold made their appear-
ance.

How He Took It.

"In training," said an instructor in
athletics, "the strictest obedience is re-
quired. Whenever I think of the the-
ory of training I think of Dash, who,
after eighteen years of married life, is
one of the best and happiest husbands
in the world.
"Dash," I once said to him, "well,
Dash, old man, how do you take mar-
ried life?"
"According to directions," he re-
plied."

Melba's Name.

Mme. Melba's name was Nellie
Mitchell until her marriage, when it
became Mrs. C. N. F. Armstrong. At
the time of her debut into opera she
decided to adopt a stage name, and
her intense loyalty to the land of her
birth moved her to combine the first
four letters of Melbourne, her native
town, and the last letter of Victoria,
the reigning queen of that time, to-
gether making Melba.

The Diamond.

While the diamond is the hardest
substance known, it is also brittle and
may be fractured by a blow. But if
it is placed between two hard steel
faces in a hydraulic press and a slowly
accelerating pressure applied the hard
steel will become indented.

"And Thy Neighbor as Thyself."
Willie—Ma, may I have Tommy Wil-
son over to our house to play, Satur-
day? Mother—No; you make altogether
too much noise. You'd better go
over to his house and play.

Described.

"Pa, what is the difference between
good taste and good judgment?"
"Well, my boy, the man who mar-
ries a pretty girl may have excellent
taste but mighty poor judgment."

The Clans of Scotland.

The clans of Scotland are generally
understood to have arisen about the
year 1008, during the reign of King
Malcolm II. The legal power of the
chiefs and the other remains of herit-
able jurisdiction were abolished in
Scotland about 1740.



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Advocate of concerts, meetings, socials,
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Sarnia.....Sept. 27, 28, 29
Brigden.....Oct. 2, 3
Alvinston.....Oct. 2, 3
WATFORD.....Oct. 10, 11
Wyoming.....Sept. 29, 30
Wilkesport.....Sept. 29, 30
Glencoe.....Sept. 29, 30
Florence.....Oct. 5, 6

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