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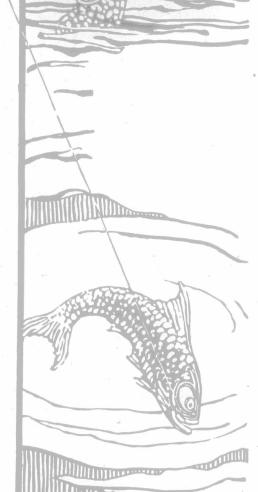
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## Corn Smut.

(Experimental Farms Note.)

The smut of corn is well known to farmers. The smut masses which usually appear as swollen outgrowths may be found on the ears, stem or leaves. These outgrowths are sometimes quite large and make the smut very conspicious. They are at first covered by a thin membrane, which soon breaks away and exposes the black mass of spores. The mass soon becomes powdery and the myriads of spores which each mass contains are readily blown about by the wind. It is these spores that spread the disease during the growing season and carry the smut over the winter to the next crop.

In many of the smuts, as the smut of oats and the stinking smut or bunt of wheat, the spores get on the seed and when the seed is planted begin growing with it and attack the young seedling. Treat-ment with a solution of formaldehyde is effective in killing the spores on the seed and preventing infection of the young plants. In the cases of the loose smut of wheat and the loose smut of barley the spores are blown about at blossoming time and grow into the very young seed. The hot water treatment of the seed is used to kill the smut inside the seed. In the case of corn smut seed treatment of any kind has been found to be of no use, as the smut spores live over in the soil or in manure rather than in or on the seed. So the only way to control the corn smut is to prevent the smut spores getting into the soil or the manure. Not only do the spores live in the manure pile for some time, but they may actually increase rapidly in number if the conditions are favorable.

Corn smut is found in all parts of Canada where corn is grown, but is more common in Eastern Canada. Generally it is not very prevalent and the losses are not great. Where it is common, measures should be taken to prevent its spread. The smut masses should be cut out during the growing season. They should be removed before they have broken open and spread their spores. They should not be left lying where they may reach manure or refuse and be carried back to the soil but they should be gathered and burned. Rotation of crops is also valuable in preventing corn smut. The smut does not live long in the soil and will not attack any other crop, so time should be given for the smut to die out in the soil before another crop of corn is planted. Seed treatment has not been found to be of any use in corn smut.—W. P. Fraser, Plant Pathologist.

## "Practical "Horse Talk."

Copies of the following suggestions about the care of horses in hot weather were sent to the principal daily newspapers in Massachusetts by the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, Boston:

The Horse to His Driver in Summer.

If a horse could talk he wou'd have many things to say to his driver in summer. He would say:—

"Water me often when the heat is intense, a little at a time if I am warm; don't water me too soon after I have eaten, and always at night when I have eaten my hay.

"When the sun is hot let me breathe once in a while in the shade of some house or tree. Anything upon my head, to keep off the sun, is bad for me unless it is kept wet, or unless the air can circulate freely underneath it.

"If I stop sweating suddenly, or if I act strangely, breathe short and quick, or if my ears droop, get me into the shade at once, remove harness and bridle, wash out my mouth, sponge me all over, shower my legs, and give me two ounces of aromatic spirits of ammonia, or two ounces of sweet spirits of nitre in a pint of water, or a pint of warm coffee. Cool my head at once, using cold water or if necessary chopped ice wrapped in a cloth.

"A warm night in a narrow stall neither properly cleaned nor bedded unfits me for

"Turning the hose on me is too risky a thing to do unless you are looking for a sick horse. Spraying the legs and feet when I am not too warm on a hot day would be agreeable.

"Please sponge out my eyes and nose and dock when I come in tired and dusty at night with clean cool water, and also sponge me under the collar and saddle of the harness."—Our Dumb Animals