

## Some Notes on Corn Crop of 1905

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There are a number of enquiries coming each year to the Seed Commissioner, Mr. G. H. Clark, like this: "Where can I get a supply of good seed corn which I can bank on?"

In order to be able to reply to these questions next year, he asked his Ontario representative, who was looking after an educational exhibit at the Simcoe Fair late in October, to extend his trip and enquire about the conditions of the corn crop in the corn belt of Ontario.

The local exhibitions held at Simcoe and Walsh Centre served to place Norfolk and Elgin counties as two of the very best counties in which to grow the flint varieties successfully. The exhibits were numerous and of a very high quality. Quite a large number of the localities were represented.

The districts around St. Thomas, Ridgetown, Essex, M. Gregor, Leam-

selection of seed, good fitting of the land, and thorough and careful after-cultivation will do much to answer the problem.

Most of the corn growers practice the usual methods in handling their seed corn. As the huskers are at work they lay aside a number of the best ears according to their judgment, and leave a few of the husks on so that they can be risked and hung up to dry. The drying place is some shed, barn, or perhaps on the sunny side of some building. When dry enough, or before hard freezing weather, it is removed to some dry place where vermin or birds may not reach it. Little more than enough seed is kept by the average farmer in this way than supplies his own wants. Some do a little better in handling their seed corn and after drying outside put it in the kitchen chamber.

the results. Quite a number have signified their intention to take up the work for the first time next year. One or two great advantages of the breeding plot are that the tendency of corn to produce barren stalks may be eliminated by detasselling the barren ones before the pollen has formed and insuring cross-fertilization of half the plot by detasselling the alternate rows. It is easier to select from a small plot planted from selected seed in the first place than it is from a field crop of some extent.

### WHY THERE IS POOR SEED CORN

The bulk of the corn crop is kept in large cribs holding from one hundred to six hundred bushels or more. It is mostly fed or sold for feed purposes. When a demand for seed corn arises and the price is large enough, the corn crib is overhauled and the best is shelled for shipping purposes to supply the market. Sometimes it occurs that the corn is not even sorted. This method has resulted in much disappointment to the users of seed



A winter scene on the shore of Lake Mindemoya, Manitoulin Island.

ington, Blenheim and Chatham were visited and revealed the facts that this year, notwithstanding some serious drawbacks of too much wet at the beginning of the season and very dry weather later on, the crop was a good average in quantity, and surpassed the last three or four years in quality. About one-half the corn would do for seed purposes.

Where husking had been done in the field, as the fine autumn weather was very favorable for outside work and the crop had been cribbed, estimated yields were running from 100 to 150 bushels per acre of corn in the ear.

### 100 BUSHELS SHELLED CORN PER ACRE

This does not represent by any means what could be done in many cases by more attention being paid to certain details. Would it be too much to expect 100 bushels of shelled corn per acre? It is certainly possible. Three good ears, each weighing a little over 12 ounces on each of the 3240 hills on one acre where the corn is planted 3 ft. 8 in. each way would mean such a yield. Why isn't it obtained? Greater care in

where it isn't likely to freeze much or very hard. A few pick up the select ears which the corn binder has knocked off and tie them together with strings, or hang them up in baskets, sacks, or something of this sort, to the rafters, in a dry place. A few, perhaps, go to the trouble of making corn racks to dry those varieties from which the husk breaks off easily.

### SELECT IDEAL EARS

Comparatively few farmers go out in the field just before cutting and select ideal ears which may be described as being cylindrical in form with deep kernels running in straight rows, covering well both butts and tips, tightly packed, growing a suitable distance up a tapering stalk with large amount of leaf, and which is ripe before the frost strikes it. A few of these details may be looked into in selecting in this way with great advantage. It was gratifying to notice that quite a number of the corn growers were trying the method of selecting their seed corn from breeding plots by a system outlined by the Seed Branch and the C. S. G. A., and who were so far quite satisfied with

corn who buy it from the trade each year. It often happens that enough soft corn is stored with the hard to generate heat, moisture and mold, which will destroy the vitality of the best seed. Vermin do their share of mischief as well. One thing is certain this year and that is with ordinary precaution the corn will be cribbed in first-class condition. Where a farmer has two cribs he can sort his corn. He can do it to a limited extent where he can enter the crib from the middle instead of one end.

### HANDLE SEED CORN IN THE EAR

Experience all points to the fact that seed corn should be handled in the ear in preference to shelling it. It would prove more satisfactory to both buyer and seller. Those farmers who have adopted some system of rotation in cropping know pretty well each year how much seed corn they will require for the next season. Would it not be better if they could place their orders in early with their seedsmen or if they could deal direct with the grower, with him in the fall, get his corn shipped in crates or jute sacks and then take care of it