Some Notes on Corn Crop of 1905

By T. G. RAYNOR, B.S.A., Ontario Seed Supt., Ottawa.

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 Ontrope to the second of the control of the second of the

questions next year, he asked his Ori-tario representative, who was looking after an educational exhibit at the Simcoe Fair late in October, to ex-tend his trip and enquire about the conditions of the corn crop in the

corn belt of Ontario.

The local exhibitions held at Sincoe and Walsh Centre served to place coe and Walsh Centre served to piace 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 num-ber of the localities were represented. The districts around St. Thomas, Ridgetown, Essex, McGregor, 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 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 seave a few of the husks on so that they can be risked and hung up that they can be risked and hung up sited, harn, or perhaps on the sunny sited, harn, or perhaps on the sunny sited, harn, or perhaps on the sunny sited 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 chambe.

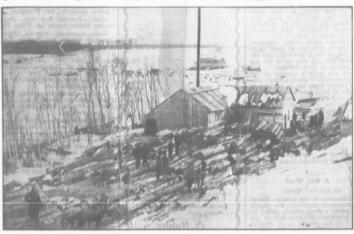
the results. Quite a number have signified their intention to take up the work for the first time next year. One or two great advantages of the One or two great advantages of the breeding plot are that the tendency of corn to produce barren stalks may be eliminated by detasseling the barren ones before the pollen has formed and insuring cross-fertil action of half the phot by detasseling 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

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The bulk of the corn crop is kept
in darge 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 purpose 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. ington, Blenheim and Chatham were

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 to certain detalls. Would it be too much to expect too bushels of shelled corn per acre? It is certainly possible. Three good ears, each weighing a little over it 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 sedect ears which the corn binder has knocked off and tie them together with strings, or hang them up in bas-kets, sacks, or something of this sort, to the raiters, 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 several control of the field of the fie

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 mould, 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 cribed in first-class condition. Where a farmer has two cribs he can sort Ded in Inst-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. World it not be better if they could place their orders in early with their seedsman 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 Experience all points to the fact