SEED CORN (MAIZE).

All seed plots of Indian corn must be sufficiently isolated to prevent cross-fertilisation with other varieties. These plots should also be separated, where possible, from other plots or fields even if of the same variety.

The hand-selected seed plot should consist of not less than 20 rows at least 3½ feet apart, planted in hills not less distant apart, each row having at least 50 and not more than 75 hills. The young plants should be thinned to not more than 3 per hill.

Each of the 20 rows should be planted with corn from a single ear. The 20 ears thus required to plant the hand-selected seed plot, as well as the plants which produce them, should be uniformly true to the desired type.

It is well to record quite minute details as to the peculiarities or characteristics of each ear planted in the special plot. The recording of such details necessitates a careful examination of each ear and assists in eliminating the danger of planting ears of different types. For this purpose special forms are supplied. Each ear planted should also be tested for vitality.

To avoid the fertilization of good plants with pollen from plants of inferior growth, all undesirable plants in the seed plot should have their tassels removed as soon as these organs appear.

The selection of seed ears for next year's breeding plot should be made as follows:—

1. Ascertain and mark from five to ten of the best rows out of the twenty planted. This choice of rows should be based upon such characters as vigor and productiveness with special reference to the *per cent. of barren plants* and to the number of plants *producing only nubbins*;

2. Fifty or more of the best ears should be chosen from the best plants out of the best rows;

3. The twenty ears required to plant next year's plot should finally be chosen from among the fifty first selected.

Special forms are sent in duplicate to each member operating with corn, in order that he may record the following information: Date of maturity; date of first injurious frost; prevalence of smut; suitability of season; percentage of barren plants on plot; percentage of plants producing nubbins, etc.