August 24, when it amounted to six and four-tenths per cent. On November 22, the room having then been heated by steam since October 12, only two and ninety-six hundredths per cent of moisture was present. At the same station, on various dates from September 22 to November 12, inclusive, samples were taken from the interior of a mass of several hundred bushels of wheat and the moisture content determined. It was found to vary from eleven and ninety-six one-hundredths per cent to sixteen and fifty-seven hundredths per cent. These results served to reveal how fast wheat loses its moisture and how extensive the shrinkage in weight becomes when it is subjected to dry air. One experiment shows that oats, barley and wheat, placed in an absolutely dry atmosphere for eighteen days, lost in weight nine and three-tenths, seven and eight-tenths, and six and two-tenths per cent, respectively. The loss at first was very rapid, but it became slower and slower toward the end of the test.

The atmosphere of the region in which wheat is stored has much to do with its shrinkage, as the air also affects all grains stored. Take the wheat growing districts of California as an instance. Wheat cured there in the field at harvest times becomes nearly as dry as it would in an absolutely dry air, and when transformed to a temperate climate, may increase in weight as much as twenty-five per cent, while a gain of five to fifteen per cent may be looked for with almost absolute certainty. In Utah it was noted that in the dry climate of the state wheat gained slightly in weight during winter storage. Wheat flour and coarser by-products of the flouring mills show a rise and fall in weight similar to whole wheat as the moisture content of the air changes.

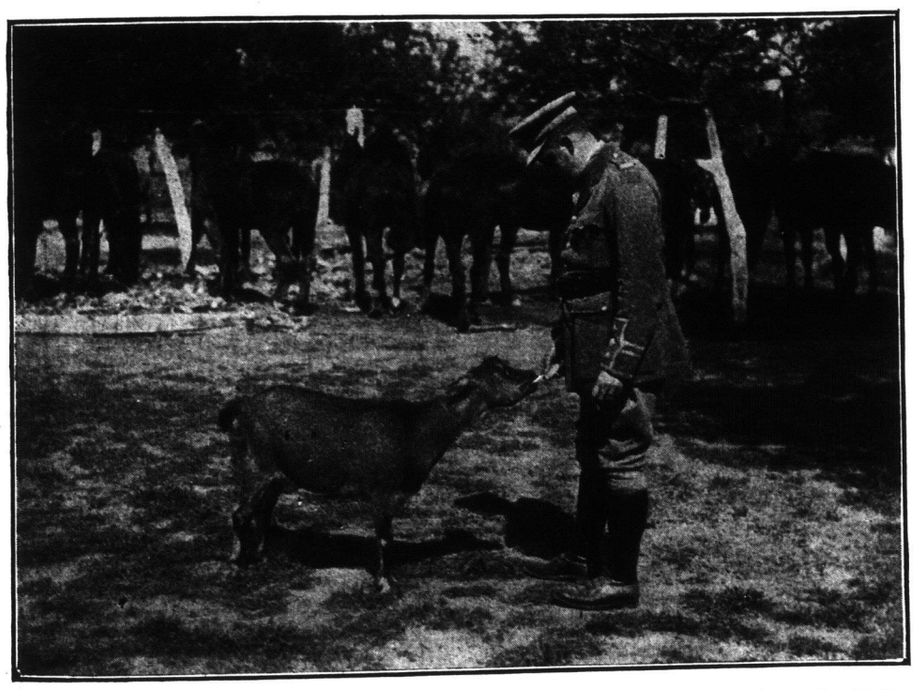
In ear corn the loss of weight during storage may be quite large. In most localities farmers expect that seventy-five pounds of ear corn will depreciate five pounds from fall to spring. This is caused to a great extent by the excessive moisture content of the ears at harvest time. This will be found to be true in the drier climates of the West and Northwest, where, in addition to the climatic advantages, the ears are generally husked from the standing stalks. Where the corn is put up for fodder, the ears continue to ripen in the shock, but do not dry out so well as if allowed to mature on the stalk. Frequently greater care needs to be exercised in storing corn than in the storage of any other grain crop.

In one region in Iowa—the heart of the Corn Belt—seven thousand pounds of corn were husked and stored in a crib in the middle of October. The crib was built upon the platform of a pair of scales, so that weighing could be made at any time without moving the corn or destroying the normal conditions of storage. The weights were taken weekly during the entire year that the variations of weather conditions might be ascertained. The shrinkage during the year was nine per cent for the first three months, a little over five per cent for the second, over three per cent for the third, two and one-half per cent for the last three months. The loss for the entire period amounted to one thousand four hundred and thirty pounds, or a little more than twenty per cent. In each instance a bushel of corn weighing eighty pounds when stored weighed sixty-four pounds at the end of the year; or if calculated to weigh seventy-five pounds when put into the crib, weighed sixty pounds after the year's storage.

In Michigan an experiment was made with a crib containing 16,767 pounds of corn, quite damp and heavy, owing to the condition of the weather. The corn was placed in the crib about October 1. On February 15 following, the loss in weight was found to be 5,725 pounds, or a little more than thirty per cent. While this result may be considered an extreme case, it will clearly reveal to the farmer the ultimate result he will obtain in harvesting his corn under poor conditions, and that there is every demand upon him for greatest profit of taking proper care of his corn crop. Another farmer in Michigan left his corn in the shock in the field until January 25, and of 3,310 pounds, experienced a shrinkage of 359 pounds, or nearly eleven per cent, calculating the loss by picking several bushels from shocks fed right up.

It should be remembered that the average results indicate that when corn is put into the crib fairly dry and in good condition the shrinkage during the winter months is not great, being a trifle over five per cent as an average for six months after the corn is cribbed, and that this loss would not be sufficient usually to equal the difference in weights which are required for a bushel of earn corn as sold in the fall and as it may be sold in the winter or early spring. It is believed that the loss in weight during the eight months is not so great as to decrease the actual value of the corn, when it is considered that at husking-time the price is often more than ten per cent than in the spring or early summer. The total shrinkage of weight in a year of nine cribs of corn was only eight and sixty-two hundredths per cent. Attention should also be called to the fact, however, that precaution was taken to avoid loss in weight from other causes than shrinkage.

As to whether the farmer should hold his corn or sell it early in the winter may depend upon several factors, as the price of corn, size of the general crop, condition at husking time, and the accommodation which the farmer may have for saving his crop. If the crop be normal and the price of corn be unusually low at husking season, and the farmer has a good crop, the usual recommendation would be to hold the corn. Judging from various experiments, corn may be held safely without great loss in weight until March or April, and if there is a question as to the success of the new crop it may be advisable to hold old corn even later than the date mentioned. Iowa farmers are unable to hold their corn crop long, as it becomes affected with the grain weevil or grain moth, though northern farmers who are not experiencing losses from these sources



Nanny—the pet of a Canadian mobile veterinary section takes a cigarette from the C. O. Many new men to the section lose their smokes if they leave their coats on the ground or within her reach.