

the seed is put into the parching kettle at a time. The kettle is then hung over an open fire. The seed must be stirred constantly to keep it from burning, and to ensure an even all round parching. The heat swells the starch grains and thus the tightly-closed hulls are forced apart. After



Wild rice growing at Point du Bois, Man.

Photo—Wm. McLaren.

parching the seed is left to cool and then placed in a hole in the ground where it is beaten with heavy sticks. Later it is fanned or tossed about in the wind to separate the chaff from the grain. The green seed is parched without drying.

STORAGE

There are many objections to autumnal sowing of wild rice, although, under certain conditions, there is much to be said in its favour. One of the chief objections is that, in the autumn, the water being lower, the seeds are sown too far out and in the spring seedlings are smothered before they reach the surface; or, as in the case with some of our beds at the farm, when the water was unusually high, the seeds did not germinate at all till the following season when the water was two or three feet lower. After trying many methods of storage we found that adopted by nature was the best. As soon as the ripened seed was gathered it was scattered between layers of mud or garden soil in wooden boxes and sunk in barrels of water. These barrels were left outside in the shade and fresh water was added in dry weather until the frosts came and the snow buried them. In storing large quantities of seed it was found more convenient to put the seed at once into the barrels with a six-inch layer of earth at the top and bottom, leaving a space of at least six inches at the top to be filled with water. The water was not allowed to dry off the top, fresh water being added daily, when the rain failed to keep the barrel full. The barrels should be kept in the shade uncovered. Freezing does no harm. Seed may also be stored without appreciable loss of vitality in a cold storage plant. The same precautions should be taken against heat and fermentation after harvesting, and the seed shipped without delay. Should the time of transportation be of any length, arrangements should be made for a reduced temperature. In any