

cent. seed corn, grown under good conditions, has produced 57 bushels per acre. Taking those averages as a basis, this Mason City corn, which is 40 per cent. dead, would produce not more than 35 bushels per acre if grown under most favorable conditions.

The 1,000 ears in the first Mason City test are not poorer than the average. I have just received a report of a second testing of seven lots of 100 ears. In one lot, taken from the crib, not a single kernel of the 100 ears proved live. In a second lot of 100 only one ear was without dead kernels, and in a third only eight. The lots, on the whole, were far worse than those of the first test. I believe that farmers near Mason City are up against it for seed corn.

The College is active with preparations for the seed corn trains which will run over the lines of the Burlington and the Rock Island railways in Iowa in the next few weeks. It is also distributing 100,000 pieces of seed-corn-testing literature through its own mailing lists and through commercial clubs and business houses to which it is furnishing these bulletins free.

Remove the Cause.

It is sound statesmanship that requires boards of health to enforce the regulation that demands every urban householder to have his premises in a sanitary condition at a comparatively early date in the spring. Unless some such regulation were operative, disease, with the consequent loss of time and lowered working efficiency, would be more prevalent than it is. Good sanitary laws, vigorously carried out, mean more healthful conditions for living, and a death rate greatly decreased. Cities and towns and villages, in sheer self-defence, rid themselves of disease-breeding debris, and for the same reasons encourage such breathing places as public parks and recreation grounds.

So far, country people in Canada have not felt the sharp spur of necessity for extreme caution in such matters. But, though the spur has not been felt, the necessity for at least an annual hunt for unnecessary and menacing clutter is quite obvious. Now that the menace of the fly to health has been demonstrated, a safe rule to follow is the clearing up of all breeding places of this disease carrier. Cans should be incinerated, the yards raked, and holes where water may be filled up, dead leaves buried, and all rubbish gathered up and burned. Stables should be swept out and treated to a liberal spray of white-wash made from fresh lime. If these matters be attended to, and screens be provided for the doors and windows of the farm premises, a greater advance will be made in the direction of public health than most people imagine. The great majority of country people already attend to such matters, without any suggestion of what Burns calls "the hangman's whip to hold the wretch in order." The exceptions, however, are numerous enough to provide public incubating quarters where diseases are hatched, to the continual menace of the community. These unsanitary homes furnish the first cases of disease. The schools and public gatherings make the disease thus started an epidemic.

The farm barnyard should receive careful attention. Where possible, all manure should be hauled to the fields for use as fertilizers. Should this be impracticable, the manure should be thoroughly tramped by the stock. No animals will do this tramping better than colts as they take their usual exercise. After the manure has been compacted in this way, it should be covered with straw or chaff. In this way the manure is kept in good condition, while flies are kept down and odors prevented.

Needless to say, the cellars, both of the house and of the barn, should be thoroughly searched for remnants of vegetable matter, and cobwebs and kindred foulness. When all such malodorous and death-breeding causes have been removed, the cellars will be greatly improved by whitewashing and the free admittance of fresh air and sunlight.

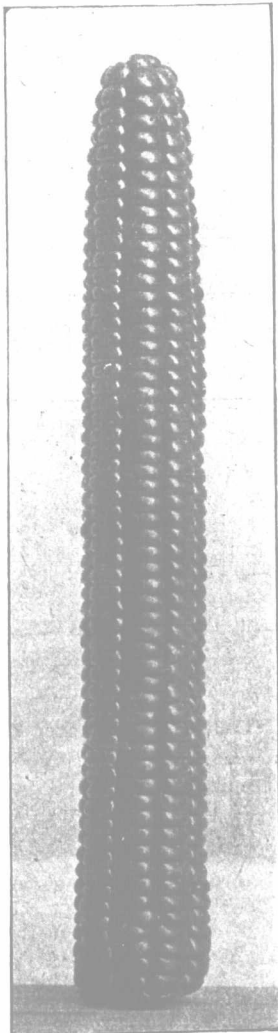
Indeed, the extreme of cleanliness scarcely goes far enough in all matters of sanitation. All ground where slops have been thrown, or which has been saturated with barnyard water, should be plowed and sown, as the odors from such places are the foes of health, while the ground itself becomes the breeding place of hurtful germs. Hen-runs and hog enclosures should be similarly treated, to the great advantage of both the stock and their owners.

The Nova Scotia Agricultural College at Truro has had a number of inquiries asking whether micro-culture bacteria for alfalfa, red clover, alfalfa clover, peas, beans, etc., would be supplied from the College as heretofore. The College will continue, as before, to supply bottles of micro-culture bacteria, each containing sufficient to inoculate 100 pounds of seed.

Corn Cultivation and Production.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As the time for planting is fast approaching, a little discussion of the cultivation and production of that most valuable farm crop, "corn," will not be amiss. Corn is taking such a prominent place in the farm economy that too much cannot be said or written to enlighten those who, we might say, are beginners in the production of this valuable crop.



A Model Ear.

Sweepstake single ear of flint corn at Tillbury Corn Show, 1912. Longfellow; exhibited by L. D. Hankinson.

One of the foremost essentials to profitable corn production is "good seed," and too much emphasis cannot be laid on this particular phase of the subject. The seed should be procured early in the season, if it is not already to hand, in order that it may be tested before planting.

A little time spent in testing the vitality of seed will often save many dollars at harvest time. Corn should be purchased on the cob, so that undesirable, damaged or immature cobs can be discarded at planting; and it is always well to keep the corn on the cob until planting. It is also good practice to discard the butts and tips. This insures a more uniform type of ears and a greater yield at harvest.

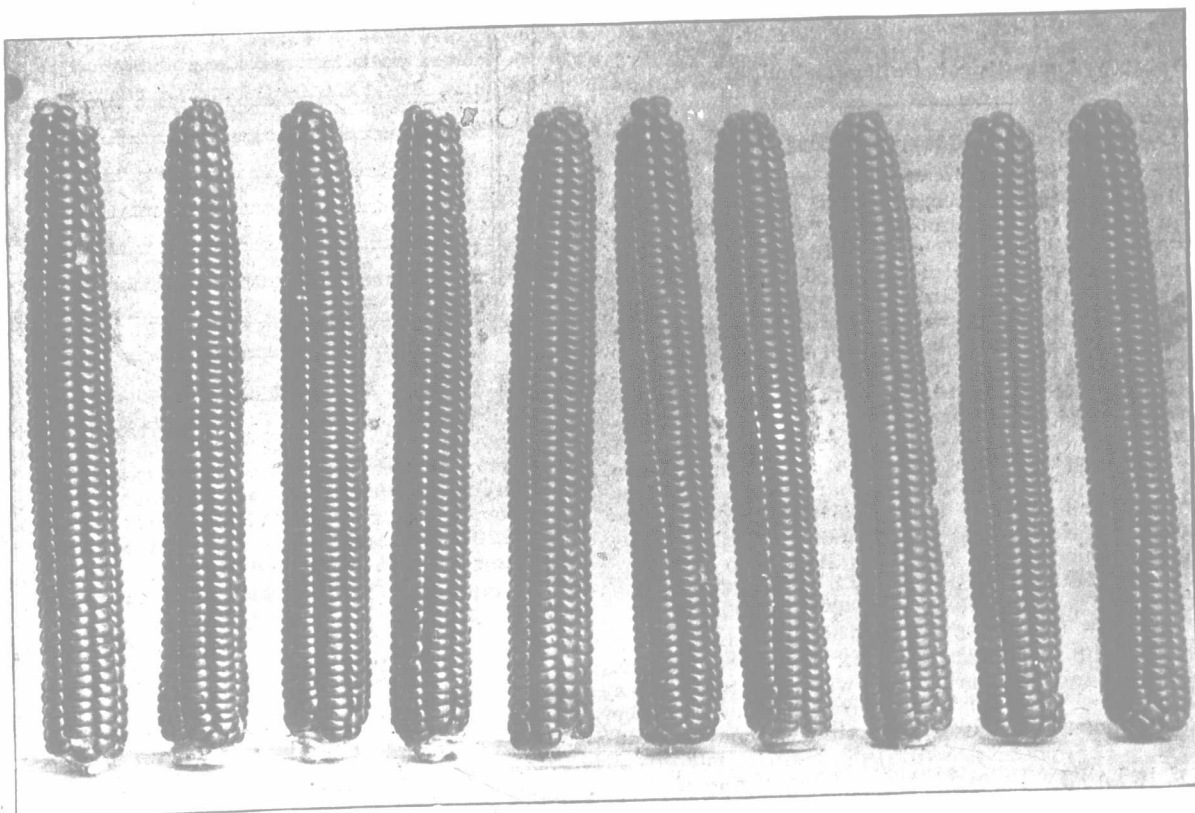
At "Sunny Acres" we follow a three and four year rotation, and corn comes in this rotation as our most staple crop. The corn follows clover sod either of one or two years' standing. Our ideal preparation for corn is to fall plow rather deeply, covering the furrows well up, so that the frost may have a chance to pulverize and loosen the soil. This, as a rule, is top-dressed during the winter with farmyard manure, at the rate of fifteen loads per acre. We find that we almost invariably get better results from this treatment than when the manure is plowed down. The young plants seem to start more quickly and vigorously in the spring. The plant food is retained at the surface, the soil is made to contain more humus, and, consequently, its powers for holding moisture are increased.

As soon as possible in the spring the fall plowing is broken down with the disk harrow and drag harrow, and the manure well incorporated with the soil by use of the spring-tooth cultivator. The sooner it is worked in the spring after the soil is sufficiently dry, the better, as the crust is broken, thus preventing to a great extent the evaporation of the soil moisture that has been store up during the winter, besides destroying many noxious weeds that may have germinated during the early spring. Cultivation before planting should be frequent—in fact, continuous—as we find that weeds are more easily exterminated when they have just germinated than when they are once rooted. At this time they are young and tender, and when brought to the surface are easily parched by the sun.

Planting may be safely started after May 10th with us; we try to finish before the first of June. I am still in favor of planting in check-rows, especially so because we get a better quality of ears. But, even for silage, I believe the check-row is the most satisfactory, as one gains in quality what is lost in quantity. Our planters are set to drop four to five kernels to the hill, although I believe that three strong plants are sufficient; but we plant thick, in the belief that it is easier to thin out than replant.

With us, cultivation begins directly after planting, and continues until the corn is so heavy that the horse cannot walk between the rows without injuring the crop. We generally aim to roll directly after planting, and follow with a light harrow just before plants appear. I think one stroke with the harrow at this time is as beneficial as several cultivations later; when the weeds get once rooted.

The scuffers are put to work as soon as the rows can be followed, and the soil is cut as close to the row as possible. We usually cultivate twice in a row, cutting once each way, and running the cultivator narrower than is ordinarily done, and keeping close to one row each way. In this way, there is only one row to watch, and the soil is cut both ways; thus, very little surface is



Ten of a Kind.

Ten ears of Longfellow flint corn, sweepstake winners at the recent Tillbury Corn Show, grown according to methods described in article on Corn Cultivation and Production.