

secure the place it deserves when our farmers are compelled to farm intensively, and when live stock will be an indispensable adjunct to grain growing.

On account of settlement, farmers cannot any longer go about the prairies and secure a supply of hay as they formerly did; consequently they find it necessary to make other provision, and corn is the substitute to which some are turning. Quite large fields of ensilage corn are grown in some of the older settled sections. Growers who have not yet erected silos, feed the straw dry in its natural state, or chop it and mix it with grain, etc. This necessity will no doubt lead to a steadily increasing interest in corn culture, and will create a desire for a corn that will produce ripened corn as well as raw. In Ontario farmers are being urged to extend their corn growing operations. Likewise in Dakota every encouragement is being given in the same direction. The agricultural colleges are taking a lively interest in the matter, and are assisting with experiments, and in every other way possible. In Dakota they are breaking away from the old traditions about wheat growing, as we must do here sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

The importance of growing corn in Manitoba cannot be overestimated. In the first place, as a means of cleaning up dirty land or restoring run-down land, nothing could be better. Corn land requires to be well manured, and during the early stages of the growing crop constant cultivation is essential in order to keep the soil loose and free from weeds. By this process land is enriched, cleaned and made ready for wheat or other succeeding crop without the loss of the use of the land for a season, as is the case when summer-fallowing is resorted to. Supposing corn were grown that did not ripen, the farmer has improved his land and secured a supply of fodder for his stock that the animals will relish and thrive upon better than anything else.

On those farms where dairying is still in vogue, cows fed on corn rations will give a larger and richer supply of milk, which means an additional income that is well worth considering. With present day field appliances, a corn crop is not hard to handle from planting to garnering; in fact, it is pleasant and interesting work.

In Manitoba the corn, which is the principal subject of this article, has been found to do best on the lighter and warmer soils such as are to be found in the localities mentioned and along the rivers. On the heavy soil it does not do well unless it has been well cultivated and heavily

manured. The finest samples yet produced have come from Lake Dauphin, where a considerable quantity was grown by the late William Lyons on a piece of land that had at one time formed the shore of the lake, and is composed of a mixture of sand and clay silt, decomposed vegetable matter, etc., such as is usually washed up by the lake waters, and therefore exceedingly rich in plant foods.

The natural height to which the corn grows is about four feet, but at Lake Dauphin it attained a height of seven feet and produced

from the making of the seed bed until stalks are too high to work among with hoe or cultivator. Given this, the result is worth while.

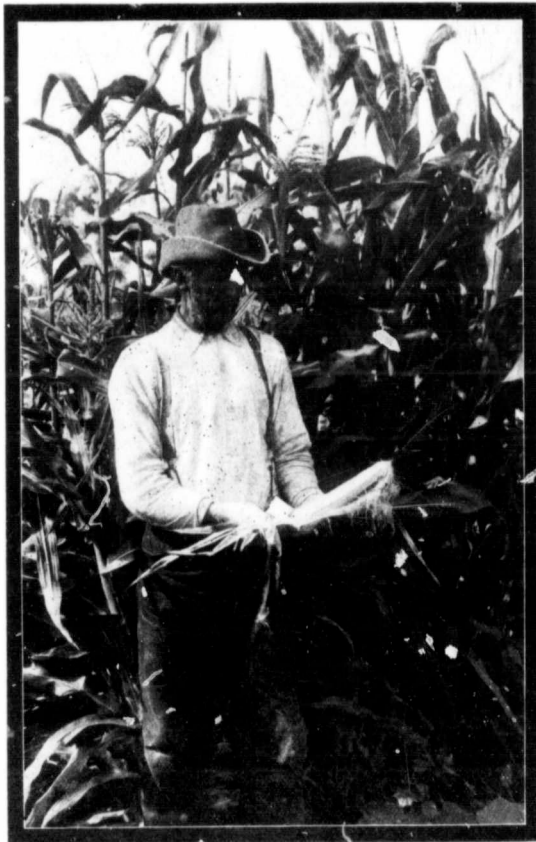
Now that we have a corn here that will ripen, and while it is sufficiently prolific and of good enough quality to produce a profitable crop, no doubt a Manitoba Burbank, desirous of achieving fame by doing something for the benefit of his fellow-men, will some day be found devoting himself to the commendable effort of creating a better and earlier variety. Corn is very easily

This native corn is not deserving of the contempt in which it is professedly held by many people. It will mature anywhere in the West east of the Foothills, and would be valuable on farms where there are hogs or poultry to be fattened; and, though it ripens quickly, it is not bad as a table corn, and can be grown in succession. Some people prefer it even to the sweet corn. At any rate, as a means of producing early varieties for this Western country, the coming native Burbank will find it a ready aid to his hand.

It will surprise the readers of *The Thresherman* to learn that the early varieties of the sweet corn, such as the Cory and Early Minnesota, have frequently matured sufficiently in the gardens of Winnipeg and the neighborhood to be fit for seed. The writer was informed by the head of one pioneer family that he had only purchased seed twice in ten years, and that he knew others who used home-grown seed more frequently than that imported by the seedsmen. This is another proof of the fact that the limit of corn culture is extending northward. The first settlers who went into the Ohio valley were told that they could not grow wheat there. After that fallacy had been exploded, it was held that corn could not be grown there or anywhere to the west or north.

Doubtless in those days wheat crops failed and corn crops failed, but by studying local conditions and learning by experience how to cultivate the land and when to sow and when to reap, both wheat and corn adapted themselves to the soil and climate, not only in the valley of the Ohio, but in the vast regions to the west and north. Less than thirty-five years ago it was thought that such things as tomatoes, cucumbers, melons and kindred tender vegetables could not be grown here, excepting under glass. If a person in those days succeeded in producing one of these vegetables in a native form after employing every artificial device known to garden science, the wonderful fact was published in the papers, the vegetable was exhibited in the window of the principal store, and crowds gathered to see it and to marvel.

Today, as a result of study and observation by people interested, they can be and are grown as easily as any common garden truck of hardier nature, providing proper methods are followed. It will be the same with corn. Once the farmers become earnestly interested King Corn will take his place in Western Canada alongside his doughty rival, wheat. When he does, there will be better cultivated farms, and present day lamentations over the difference and neglect of the dairy



A Fair Sample for Western Canada.

cobs as long as thirteen inches with kernels of beautiful color and great hardness. This experience demonstrates that the constituents of that particular soil are what corn requires. Corn produced at Portage la Prairie and Stonewall has also invariably been of fine quality. It has been ascertained that where the best results have been obtained the growers take a real and serious interest in their experiments. They have their ground in right shape. They plant the seed right, and they cultivate the growing crop properly at the proper time. This is the only way to grow corn. Shiftless methods will not do. Corn is a susceptible and sensitive plant and requires attention

crossed. If different varieties are planted together, cobs will be found on the variety that ripens with kernels of each of the other kinds.

The writer has seen cobs with as many as five different sorts on them, including both flint and sweet corn. By growing corn in this way and selecting the best kernels new and earlier varieties may be obtained, though in planting such seeds, they should be kept separate from other corn, so that the result will be definitely learned. This yellow flint corn of Quebec origin is a good sort to experiment with in Manitoba. In the higher altitudes the Indian or Squaw corn would be a suitable medium for this purpose.