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KING CORN IN MANITOBA

By E. A. BLOW

HAD anyone predicted fifteen years ago that the Northern limit of corn culture would ultimately be found in Manitoba, he would have been regarded as a crazy visionary, and would have been laughed to scorn. But nevertheless the unexpected has happened. King Corn is here and has come to stay. Slowly but surely he pursued his Northward march from Iowa through Minnesota to North Dakota, and finally became firmly established in the last-named state, where he is fast becoming one of the principal products of the prairie farms in the Red River Valley.

Unaware of what was being done in Dakota by the corn enthusiasts, three or four Winnipeg gentlemen who had accidentally found a merchantable corn that gave promise of adapting itself to the climatic conditions of these latitudes were carrying on experiments. By following the method of seed selection each season and cultivating carefully, this corn in three years became completely acclimatized and matured perfectly. When they felt assured that the corn would thrive in an average growing season of Manitoba, they made known the fact through the press, and one of the Winnipeg newspapers undertook to distribute native grown seed among the farmers of the three prairie provinces.

That the Western farmer is interested in corn culture and is disposed to make it one of the features of his agricultural enterprises was proven beyond doubt by the large number of applications that were received for this seed, and by the eagerness the

applicants expressed to have a standard corn that would ripen in this country.

It was three years ago that the distribution began, and the reports received in the interval have been, on the whole, highly satisfactory, those from certain localities being particularly gratifying.

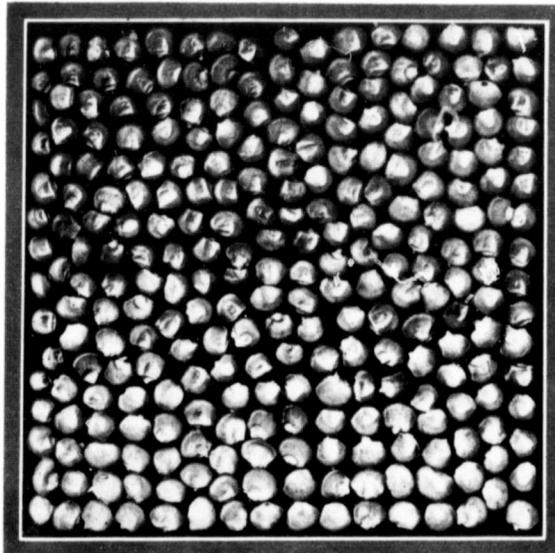
the corn maturing, and owing to this condition it is thought that it will not be possible to ripen corn in the central and northern sections of those provinces, at least until a corn has been produced that will withstand conditions that are to be met with there. However, a fine stand of

according to an official report received from Superintendent McKay.

In Manitoba, and especially in the Stonewall, Portage la Prairie and Dauphin districts, this corn does well, and many farmers and town-people now grow patches of it every year from their own seed, and are as certain of it ripening as they are of any other cereal grown in this country. No attempt has yet been made to grow it on an extensive scale, but doubtless, as the farmers come to realize its value, they will go in for acres of it, where they now only plant rods.

The parent seed of the corn which has been established here originally came from Quebec where summer climatic conditions are similar to those of Manitoba, with the exception that perhaps the nights are somewhat warmer during the ripening period. Large quantities of this corn are grown in the lower province for stock feeding and for the general market. It is a yellow flint, eight-rowed variety, and the kernels are of fair size. It is in every respect superior to the flint corns grown in Dakota. An expert at the Grand Forks corn show stated that it was equal to that grown in some parts of Kansas and Nebraska.

As wheat has been king in Manitoba ever since the settlement of the country, and everybody's mind is concentrated on it as both the foundation and superstructure of the wealth and prosperity of the West, it will doubtless take considerable time to attract more than passing attention to corn, which will probably only



Specimen Corn Seed Ripened in Manitoba

The experiments in Saskatchewan and Alberta resulted indifferently. In a few localities the corn ripened one season, but the other two seasons were wet and cold, and frost caught it before it was fully matured. The cooler nights in the higher altitudes of these two provinces militated against

straw has been secured every year, and this in itself is important, for the straw makes an unexcelled fodder for milking cows and other cattle during the winter. At the Indian Head Experimental Farm it gave the heaviest yield of all varieties grown for ensilage purposes, ac-