

as evidence that the custom of purchasing shelled seed corn is unwise and detrimental to the best interest of the corn grower;

When the corn is in the ear, the farmer can see first what he has. If after a critical examination, he is confident that the corn is unsatisfactory, he can reject it and return it at once to the grower. This plan will enable him to secure corn from another source or use his own seed, which in fact, may be superior to that which has been shipped to him. He will not lose a year in discovering that he has an undesirable type of corn. The corn grower seldom buys seed for his entire acreage and therefore it is possible for him to select from the few bushels which he has purchased the best ears in the entire shipment. If these have been selected with care and are of a desirable type as to size, shape, market condition and character of the kernel, they should be planted on one side of the field where the conditions are the most favorable. Thus a limited area is grown from the best seed. This portion of the field should yield superior corn for seed for his future crops. When this plan of selection is repeated year after year corn is grown which is well adapted to the latitude and conditions in which it is raised.

Again when seed corn is received in the ear two or three kernels should be removed from each ear and tested. Those ears which show poor germinating qualities can be rejected. On the other hand, if shelled corn is purchased the kernels from the ears of low vitality or germinating power are mixed with the others and cannot be separated. The result must necessarily be a poor stand and a reduced yield.

Another very important reason for securing seed corn in the ear is that

butt and tip kernels may be discarded. By butt and tip kernels are meant those at the extremes of the ears, which, because of their situation, are for the most part stunted in size and distorted in shape. In germination the middle kernels are superior to both butt and tip kernels, about 85% of butt kernels germinate, 91% of the middle, and of the tips about 72%, other things being equal. However, such kernels make even planting impossible even by hand."

#### TAKE CARE OF THE SEED

The Purdue University Experiment Station, Lafayette, Indiana, offers the following very practical advice on this subject.

"Much corn that is intended for seed is injured by improper methods of drying and storing. It is most liable to injury during the first month or six weeks after husking. As it comes from the field, it still contains twenty-five or more per cent. of moisture, and as this moisture is contained within the kernel and cob it takes considerable time to get rid of it unless artificial heat is used.

It should be stored at once in a dry well ventilated place, and in such a way that there may be free air circulation around each ear. If this is not done its vitality is almost sure to be injured, either by moulding, fermenting, growing or freezing. There are many methods of storing seed corn but in all cases, the place of storing must be dry and well ventilated. Seed corn should always be stored in the ear. The attic or an empty room in the house upstairs is a good place for storing, if it is not too warm and close, while the corn is still damp. The barn and the crib are suitable places for storing if there is time enough for the ear to become thoroughly dry before freezing weather comes. The amount of