

The imported Hackney Filly, Terrington Bonibel. She has a first and junior championship for 1904 to her credit. Owned by Robt. Beith, Bowmanville, and will be offered at his sale on March 29th.

## Correspondence

### Selecting Seed Corn

EDITOR THE FARMING WORLD:

So many farmers failed last year in getting a good stand of corn, because of the bad seed planted, that I thought I would give you my method of getting good vital seed.

Everyone admits the value of good seed, but many fail in applying the principle in practice. I find it is important to test the seed corn. I don't bank so much on the test between folds of blotting paper moistened and put between plates, or even in a box of soil beside the kitchen stove moistened with warm water. Corn that has any vitality at all will grow under such conditions. But I do bank on its vitality when I plant it outside in a cold soil under natural conditions and then find 90 per cent. to 100 per cent growing.

There is more difference in the vitality of seed corn than most farmers think. It might be compared to two calves one sometimes sees on the farm. The one calf is a long-legged, flat-sided, ew-necked, scrawny, balloon calf, that for every dollar's worth of growth it has cost two dollars' worth of feed to produce it. That is like the seed corn of weak vitality. The other calf is a strong, vigorous, robust, growthy fellow, that every dollar's worth of feed gives two dollars' worth of growth, and that if you knocked him in the head you couldn't kill him if you tried. The other one should have been put out of the way shortly after it was born. This strong calf represents the seed corn of strong vitality.

How to secure this good seed is the question. I like to go out in the corn field early in September and select the seed ears before the corn is cut, and "select the largest ears, with the deepest kernels that will ripen before frost comes." That is the way a successful Minnesota corn grower puts it, and I think it is pretty hard to improve on that definition of the ideal seed ear. I have little use for many of the fancy points that some are inclined to harp upon. For instance, they want a very symmetrical ear, of cylindrical shape, very small cob, rows to run straight as a gun barrel, and to be well covered at both ends. Especially is the tip end to be well covered and a kernel to be slugged in at the very end. I am of the opinion that it makes very little

difference to the hog as to whether the rows are straight or crooked, or whether they have a few extra kernels on the body of the ear instead of at the end. If I find suitable ears of this type I wouldn't pass them by, but I would not neglect good ears if they didn't conform to all the fancy points.

As soon as the corn is selected I husk it, braid it up and hang it up over the kitchen chamber, where the pipe and chimney are, to get it thoroughly dried before hard freezing weather. If corn is thoroughly dried it will stand a test of 60 degrees below zero. If only partly dry when cold weather comes it will be weakened by every frost. Of course after being once dried I keep it dry, and when ready to plant I shell it. Before shelling I believe it is a good practice to cut off both ends of the seed ear in order to get uniform kernels to

plant for an even stand. I also believe it would be a good practice and improve the corn to plant half an acre or so to the best selected seed. Give it special attention in fitting the ground and cultivation, keep it at least 40 rods from any other corn to prevent mixing, cut off all tassels or barren stalks, and from this patch select the best ears for future planting.

T. G. RAYNOR,  
Prince Edward Co., Ont.

### Hold Mure Seed Fairs

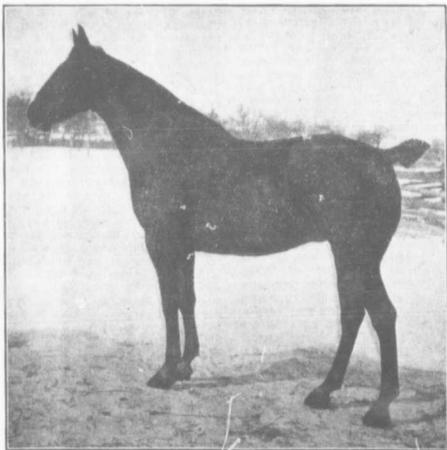
EDITOR THE FARMING WORLD:

If there is one thing more than another which our farmers have to cope with every year, it is that of securing good seed. For a number of years back weed seeds have been rapidly on the increase, and if something is not done in the near future to check this spreading farmers will be unable to secure clean seed at any cost.

It is an old saying, and a true one also, "That whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," and almost all of our farmers are aware that if large plump seed is sown, large plump seed will be harvested, and that if small shrunken or broken seed be sown, the result will be otherwise than satisfactory when harvest time comes, as a large percentage of the seed will not grow, and weed seeds will grow up instead.

Experiments have been conducted at Guelph and other places, which illustrate the difference in yield from large seed and the other kinds mentioned. In barley alone, a difference of three bushels per acre more for large plump seed than small plump seed has been shown, of seven bushels per acre more from large plump seed than shrunken seed, and of ten bushels per acre more than from broken seed. This should be sufficient to show that the large plump seed should be more fully sought after, and it holds good for other grains as well as barley.

Any farmer who has the welfare of his country at heart would not object to paying ten or fifteen cents a bushel more for good large seed, which is thoroughly free from weed seeds, than for poor seed in which weed seeds might possibly exist.



The Hackney Mare, Priscilla, owned by Robt. Beith, Bowmanville, Ont., winner of championships at Toronto, St. Louis and Chicago in 1901. The photographer's snapshot does not do the mare justice, but there are shown a set of legs and feet that are hard to beat.