

Do You Grow Corn?—Then Know Your Seed

By N. R. Martin '16.

Year by year the acreage of corn is increasing. The Corn belt is creeping Northward. Who would venture to define it's limits? It has been done—foolishly, we think. In these days we are becoming very much interested in Corn growing. That "good seed is the basis of maximum production" we know to be a truism. It is particularly true of corn. Many bushels of corn, and many tons of ensilage would be added to our store if we nailed to the mast-head the slogan, "We will not plant poor seed corn." Let us look into what is good, where we shall get, and how we shall know it.

SECURING SEED CORN

In determining on the source of seed corn supply, there are several things that should be considered. Secure your seed if possible, either from your own crop or from a successful corn grower in your neighborhood. This is desirable because it insures a variety that will mature well in your locality. Many who grow corn are firm in their belief that it is necessary to change seed frequently. They believe their own variety or strain has run out and that they must buy some vigorous seed from some other locality. Is this necessary? Must growers of corn every few years buy high priced seed in order to maintain their yields? It seems that the answer to this question is another question! How did the man who sells the new and vigorous seed keep it from running out?

WHY CORN "RUNS OUT"

It is true that corn which has been grown for a number of years on the same farm may be giving diminishing

yields of inferior quality and that purchased seed may yield more and of a much better quality. But the difference is not due to any unavoidable tendency to deterioration inherent in the corn plant. It is largely the result of differences in the manner of selecting the seed. If the corn has been collected for several years by gathering it up with a scoop shovel from the "leavings" in the crib in the spring, and if the seed bought was grown by a man who practised proper methods of seed selection the difference is accounted for. It is in the value of the man and not in that of the corn plant that the trouble lies.

FIELD SELECTION BEST

In order to obtain the best results in seed corn selection, the stalk which bore the ear should be studied as well as the ear itself. This does not mean however, that great improvement can not be made from a study of the ears only. But it is a fact, nevertheless, that a better selection may be made at husking or picking time than any other. Then, and then only the opportunity is afforded of knowing the nature of the parent plant as well as that of the offspring or seed. The best type of stalk to select the seed ear from is one which bears the ear a little less than half way up, the ear drooping.

BUY EAR CORN FOR SEED

If your conditions are such that you must buy your seed corn be sure to get it from a reliable source and get it *in* the ear. There are excellent reasons for this and we quote the Iowa Agricultural College as follows:

"The following facts are offered