

# Making Money On the Farm

## III.—Corn Culture

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**P**REPARATION to raise a large crop of corn should begin in the fall of the previous year. Plowing for the crop should by all means be done the fall before if possible. Weed seeds will sprout and be killed by frost. Insects that are hibernating in the ground will meet the same fate. Frost is one of the farmer's best friends in many ways. The effect of freezing on the exposed plowing is to crumble it more thoroughly than could be done by half a dozen diskings. If the land is clover sod, as it should be if the highest yield is to be expected, the freezing will break up the sod better than can be done in any other way. In some cases, however, where there is considerable late fall growth that is available for fall and winter pasture, it is better to let the plowing go until spring, even if it does make a little more work getting it in shape.

### Gathering Seed Corn.

Even more important than fall plowing is the selection of seed corn early in the fall and storing it carefully for the winter. The plan of going through the field early and picking the seed in a sack is sometimes advocated, but on most farms this is too much of an undertaking. A better way is to go out and husk a load as soon as it is fairly well ripened and before any very hard frosts come. If this is picked from the best part of the field there ought to be at least three or four bushels of good seed ears in it. These can be sorted out and the remainder spread over the bottom of the crib or fed to the hogs.

Half a dozen such loads will usually furnish all the seed needed. It is a good plan to save about twice as much seed as will be required, so that selection can be more rigid in the spring. If there are no very severe frozes before husking begins in earnest some more seed corn can be saved by putting a box on the side of the wagon, in which the best ears may be thrown. A better quality of seed may be obtained in this way because of a wider range of selection. It is not safe to depend on it entirely, however, because a hard freeze when the corn is full of moisture may kill the germs and make it worthless for seed. The first thing to do with newly gathered seed is to hang it up where it can dry out quickly. An open shed is the best place for this, as the air can circulate readily, while the roof keeps off the frost. A good way to hang the corn is to tie a number of ears on a long binding twine. After the corn is well dried out and before extremely cold weather comes it should be put in the storage room. The attic is a good place, provided there is some provision for ventilation. If the corn is dry some freezing will not hurt it, but cold and moisture together are very injurious.

### Selecting and Testing.

Along in February the corn should be sorted, picking out only those ears of fair size, well filled at the butts and tips and symmetrically shaped throughout. Further instructions for selecting corn will be given in article 6. After the corn is sorted a few ears should be taken from a number of ears in different parts of the seed room and tested. A fold of moist flannel between two dinner plates makes a good tester. Put the corn between the layers of cloth and set it in some out of the way place in the living room. In three or four days it will be ready to exam-



FIG. 5—SEED EARS ARE PLENTIFUL.

ine. If all the kernels show strong sprouts try a second test. If this gives the same result the vitality of the seed may be taken for granted. If some of the kernels fail to germinate and others have weak sprouts the individual ear test should be used.

For this select a box of any convenient size and put into it three or four inches of moist sand or sawdust. On this place a strip of muslin which has been marked into inch squares. Lay down as many ears in a row on the floor as there are squares in the box. Take four to six kernels from each ear, selecting them from different parts, and place them in a square corresponding to the number of the ear from which they came. Cover the kernels with three or four layers of moist cloth and with some more of the sawdust or sand and set away as

before. When the kernels germinate you have a complete record of the vitality of each ear. Those in which one or more of the kernels failed to germinate should be discarded. Those that show weak germination should be put in a pile by themselves. If there is enough seed without them they should not be used at all. If there is not enough of the strong seed the other will have to be used. By putting it on the warmest, driest soil it will make a fairly good growth.

### Grading the Seed.

After the corn has been tested it should be run through a seed corn grader. This will remove the irregular butt and tip kernels and divide the rest into several grades, according to size. If the corn is well graded in this way an edge drop planter will give the best results. For kernels of different sizes, however, the full hill drop is preferable. The calibration of the planter is an important point if an even stand is to be secured. By blocking up the planter so that the wheels are clear of the ground and running through a painful or so of each grade of corn plates can be selected that will drop the desired number of kernels ninety-five times out of a hundred. These plates should be put with their particular grade of corn in readiness for planting time.

### Preparing the Soil.

With graded seed of high germinating power and a planter properly calibrated a good stand is almost certain. The next step is to prepare the soil to receive the seed. In sections where there is any danger of drought it pays to run over the fall plowing with a harrow early in the spring. This crumbles the surface and checks evaporation. It also encourages the weeds to start, only to be killed by the disk later. As soon as possible after the small grain is in the disk should be set to work on the corn ground. If there is time it pays to double disk, as the soil is left in smoother and finer condition. After disking the ground should be harrowed occasionally until planting time.

In many cases corn follows corn, and the plowing must be done in the spring. Spring plowing should not be



FIG. 6—CORN HUSKING TIME.

very deep, as it makes a loose layer of dirt into which the moisture cannot readily rise from the subsoil. As a consequence the furrow slice dries out, and the growth of the young corn plant is checked. A disking before plowing will cut up the stalks and provide a fine layer which will fall into the bottom of the furrow and help to restore capillarity. In soils that are liable to bake, each day's plowing should be harrowed before leaving the field at night. A little work at this time will prevent the formation of clods and save ten times as much trouble trying to pulverize them later. Three or four additional harrowings will usually put the spring plowing into first class shape for planting.

It is better to check than to drill when growing corn for grain, as it can be kept cleaner, with a resulting larger yield. For fodder or silage drilled corn gives more tons of dry matter per acre and is more easily handled by the corn binder. In some of the states west of the Missouri river, where the soil is light and rainfall scanty, listing gives the best results.

The number of kernels to use per hill depends upon the richness of the soil. On the average corn belt soils three kernels per hill will give the best results. Very rich soils can support four, while on poor soils two are enough. It pays both in looks and in ease of cultivating to drive straight while planting and to take pains to have the rows check straight crosswise.

### Cultivation.

As many harrowings as possible should be given the corn between planting time and the time it comes up. If heavy rains have packed the soil or if it is badly infested with weeds it will pay to follow the planter marks with the cultivator before harrowing.

As soon as the rows can be followed the cultivator should be started. If any deep cultivation is to be given it should be the first two times over, before the soil is filled with corn roots. After the corn is six or eight inches high some form of surface cultivator that will not disturb the soil to a depth of more than two or three inches should be used. In the western part of the corn belt, where the fields are large, the two row cultivator is becoming popular. If the corn is very straight both ways these cultivators work well after the first time over and enable one man to handle at least half as much more land.

The problem of cultivating a cornfield several hundred acres in extent, such as is found in many of the great corn growing regions of the prairie states, has been greatly simplified since the two row cultivator came into use. With the perfect working corn planters now in the market the rows of corn may be made so straight that the two row cultivator can be used without difficulty. This has brought about a facility of cultivation which has added largely to the yield in many parts of the country. Before the coming of the double row cultivator there was danger that much of the land of the western portion of the belt would become too weedy for corn culture.

## BUILDINGS TELL THEIR STORY.

Unwittingly They Reveal Secrets of the Hearts of Those Who Constructed Them.

The observer of buildings may read with ease many a secret of the builder's heart, whether it be pride, ambition, hypocrisy or solid worth. The apartment building that is "built to last" is easier to read than some structures which are the expression of composite thought. There is a good exterior appearance, halls heavy with "style," with tiled floors, marble walls, and massive chandeliers. But inside the apartments, on every hand, there are evidences of a conscious intention to skip and neglect even ordinary standards of good carpenter work.

How unwittingly does the builder rear this projection of his inmost character! Would it restrain him to know that others regarded his work as an open confession of the very things he would prefer to hide? It might not change his character, but it could cause him to make such a building as he would like to be thought of as corresponding to in character. If this method of interpreting buildings were to be popularized it might raise the standards of the industry. Our contribution to this end would be a proverb, to pass current wherever buildings are contemplated: "A building is a confession in stone."—Collier's.

### Bulls Without Horns.

In his "Irish Life and Character" Michael Maedonagh has a choice collection of bulls. He called on a hairdresser in Kingstown. As he was leaving the man tried to induce him to buy a bottle of hair wash. "What sort of stuff is it?" he asked. "Oh, it's a sort of miltum in parvo—the less you take of it the better."

A few days later the writer was walking with a friend over the Wick low mountains, where they met a "character."

"Well, Mick," said my friend, "I've heard some queer stories about your dogs lately." "Och, don't believe them, surr," replied Mick. "Sure, half the lies told about me by the nay-bors isn't true."

The following notice Mr. Maedonagh saw posted in a pleasure boat on the Suir:

"The chairs in the cabinet are for ladies. Gentlemen are requested not to make use of them till the ladies are seated."

And this he clipped from a Kingstown newspaper:

"James O'Mahony, wine and spirit merchant, Kingstown, has still on his hands a small quantity of the whisky which was drunk by the duke of York while in Dublin."

### A Woman's Bargain.

An Oil City man who was detained at the house for a part of the day, handed his wife, who was going down town, a quarter of a dollar and requested her to get him three cigars for it.

When she returned she handed him the package, remarking exultantly:

"That shows that women can beat men all hollow when it comes to making purchases. I found a place where I could get eight for a quarter instead of three. Isn't that going some?"

And the poor man, as he took his medicine, merely remarked: "It certainly is, dear."—Oil City Blizzard.

### Messina Was Warned.

Signs of the approach of this catastrophe had not been obscure. Warning had not been given of the impending danger by abnormal atmospheric conditions, it is true. There had been no electrical tension in the air. But a general distemperature, says the correspondent of the Paris Temps, "reacted on susceptible organizations." All through the day and night before the nervous were peculiarly wrought up. There was a half hour interval on the eve of the original shock when the birds, the dogs and the cattle evinced intense agitation. Horses neighed loudly at their stalls. The howling of the dogs was noticed aboard the ships at anchor.—Current Literature.

### But Not So Often.

Bink—Why is history like a writer of comic operas?  
Gink—Why?  
Bink—History repeats itself.

### The Ill-Natured Man.

The ill-natured man, though but of equal parts with the good-natured man, gives himself a larger field to expatiate in. He exposes those failings in human nature which the other would cast a veil over; laughs at vices which the other either excuses or conceals; falls indifferently upon friends or enemies; exposes the person who has obliged him; and, in short, sticks at nothing that may establish his character of a wit.

### Back to Earth.

"Every cloud has a silver lining," said the ready-made philosopher.  
"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne "The clouds are all right. But how about neckties?"

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See us for sale bills.  
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Lowney's fine candies at Gering's.  
Take a Kodak on your vacation.—Gering & Co.  
Prescription work a specialty at Gering's & Co.  
Gering & Co. can fill your prescription in the right way.  
You may win a home with a box of Lowney's. Gering sells Lowney's fine candy.  
E. F. Hartman arrived in the city from Glenwood Wednesday for an over night stay with friends. Mr. Hartman has a good position in a bakery in that city.

**His Business Ability.**  
In the Adirondacks lives a man too lazy to work, but evidently of great business ability. One winter, when he was sitting around smoking, his family came so near starving that some of his neighbors, who could ill afford to help him, took up a collection and bought for the suffering family a barrel of flour, a barrel of pork and a load of wood. They were not considerate enough to cut the wood, but the business man knew how to manage. He hired some of his neighbors who had not contributed to his demotion to cut the wood and paid them with half of the pork and half the flour.—Lippincott's.

**How the "Toast" Originated.**  
The drinking to one's health is a very old custom, dating way down the ages in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the favorite drinks were sack, Canary, claret, sherry—to which were added honey, sugar, ginger and other spices. On the top of this mixture a piece of toasted bread was always floated. It was supposed to give the necessary flavor. Hence the idea of originating a "toast." The word is used in reference to any sentiment prepared for a speech at a social gathering or banquet. In fact, the making of "toasts" is a very graceful art, worthy of cultivation.

**Built to the Memory of a Dog.**  
Of the memorials to dogs the most imposing of modern date is "Tell's Tower," a structure on the seashore near West Kirby, Cheshire, Eng. It is in honor of the great St. Bernard dog, Tell, ancestor of most of the rough-coated champions of England, and himself winner of every prize in the kingdom. He was majestic in appearance, noble in character, and of undaunted courage. Built by the late Mr. J. Cumming Maedona, the tower is a sort of summer house, in the base of which is a vault containing Tell's remains, guarded by an effigy of that remarkable animal.—Wide World Magazine.

**One's Own Judgment Biased.**  
Our opinion of ourselves, like our shadow, makes us either too big or too little.—Bronte.

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**DANGER SIGNAL NO. 1** comes from the kidney secretions. They will warn you when the kidneys are sick. Well kidneys excrete a clear, amber fluid. Sick kidneys send out a thin, pale and foamy, or a thick, red, ill-smelling urine, full of sediment and irregular of passage.

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