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CORN NATIVE OF OLD MEXICO

Origin and Culture Explained by Prof. A. D. Shamel.

REPRESENTS SECRETARY WILSON
Scientist from Washington is Sent out by the Department of Agriculture to Aid in the Exposition.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has sent a personal representative to the National Corn exposition in Prof. A. D. Shamel, expert in the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington. Prof. Shamel is the author of several books on corn and a specialist of international renown. His advice and counsel have been at the disposal of the corn exposition management from the first and have been agencies of much assistance.

The sending of Prof. Shamel to Omaha is taken to clearly denote the lively interest Secretary Wilson feels in the exposition and the deep desire to promote its welfare. Prof. Shamel has some most interesting things to say upon corn, its origin and culture.

"The difference in the qualities of samples to be shown at the exposition over those of last year and ten years ago, is the difference that exists between the razor-back hog of the old days and the Poland-China hog of today," said Prof. Shamel. "There has been a persistent and unvarying improvement in the selection of improved seed since 1858, when the corn crop show became a practical fact."

Typical Corn of Today.

"The Omaha exposition will show the typical corn of this modern day, and the result of ten years of experiment, intelligent selection and cultivation. The material result of the corn exposition in that period has been to increase the yield as well as the quality. An increased yield means an increased quality. It does not cost any more to raise good corn and increase the yield than to raise bad corn and decrease the yield. This fact has been abundantly demonstrated in Iowa, Indiana and Illinois, and is being demonstrated in Nebraska each year.

"Nor has the increase in yield or improvement in quality been the only accruing benefit. An equally important result has been to improve the type of corn and as in the case of certain Iowa growers, of securing an early growth type that matures in that latitude before it can be possibly damaged by frost. Another beneficial feature is the selection of corn suitable to different localities, such as require long and short periods of maturity. Corn, while one of nature's most bountiful products, is at the same time a most capricious one. It is easily susceptible to drought and frost, but by a system of intelligent selection and breeding, types can be produced that will meet every condition of climate in the corn belt area.

Influence of Climate.

"In the Omaha exposition these climatological types will be shown in their perfected development. The day has passed when the corn growers will buy seed matured in the south for planting in northern fields or corn matured in northern fields to be planted in the south. The result of such miscalculation has had more to do with corn failures than any other cause, with its consequent discouragement and disaster to the grower. That day has passed or is passing. The corn breeders of the different localities are getting together and by constant interchange of

Indiana Corn Trophy



GRAND SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE.

intelligent ideas based upon careful observation are producing that type of corn best adapted to their respective localities.

"The process of selection of the fittest corn for a given locality has revolutionized the corn growing industry.

"The first meeting of the Illinois Corn Breeders' association was held in 1893, with but five members present. Now it has a membership of seventy-five broad, brainy men who are making the study of seed and breeding their life work. Similar associations or groups of associations have been formed in all the corn growing states. They are all active, wide-awake men. There is a constant interchange of corn among them. They sell the seed corn on the ear only, in order to guard against possible or inadvertent substitution. They have learned that it takes just as much good soil and as much soil nutrition to produce a worthless nubbin as it does a prize ear

of corn and just as much work. The ear idea of selling seed corn is that the perfected corn may be seen in all its beauty and strength as well as in its maturity.

Reason for the Zones.

"The prizes in corn shows are decided according to zones. These zones are divided into twenty-five or thirty subdivisions and the awards are made in accord with the local conditions. Then from those a committee selects the best samples to meet the general condition, including early maturity and productiveness. This is done in order to meet the demand for an all-purpose corn.

"During the exposition lectures will be given covering every phase of corn culture, seed selection, seed preservation, breeding and cultivation by practical corn growers from all parts of the country. These lectures will be illustrated by types of corn and the effects of cultivation upon these

types in the different localities.

"The leading corn growing states in proportion to their importance are Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio. The eastern edge of the corn belt is the Ohio river, and the western edge to the center of Kansas and Nebraska, north to the middle of Iowa and south to Arkansas, or along the fortieth parallel. Of course much excellent corn is grown in other states outside these stated districts. Good corn is grown in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and some other southern states, as well as in practically all of the northern states. By the process of selection the cultivation of corn in Texas and other far-southern states is gradually improving and will continue to improve. The same observation will apply to the northern states not included in the corn belt.

Corn Native of Mexico.
"Corn originated in Mexico. From there it gradually progressed northward until it found its natural habitation in the corn belt. For centuries but little effort was made to cultivate corn in the Mexican countries.

It was of the flint varieties and what we now know as the "squaw" type of corn. It was an early maturing variety, the grains being of a silty color or mottled, ears long, cobs small and of the typical eight-rowed variety. The grains were large and extremely hard, which gave it the name of flint. The Mexicans of the early days know nothing of the "dent" varieties of corn, which is exclusively the product of the corn belt. The dent corns are softer and more nutritious and the grains smaller. However, the dent corns are being gradually introduced into Mexico by the gradual process of selection and cultivation.

"The corn production of the year 1908 will closely approximate 2,600,000,000 bushels. On the whole it is of a better grade than that produced last year and will grade better in the markets than any other crop of corn ever before harvested, and this result is wholly attributable to the lessons taught by the corn shows and exposition which have steadily improved the grades of corn since their inception ten or a dozen years ago.

Grown in Other Countries.

"Much corn is grown in European countries, but it originated in America. Russia, Germany, France, Austria and Hungary raise considerable corn, but its quality is greatly inferior to the American product, being an exotic. Its use as a human food is progressing with rapid strides in the European countries. There is but little question that with the stimulus given to corn growing through the Omaha exposition demand for American corn for import.

"While this exposition in Omaha is primarily for corn, other grain and grass will not be overlooked. The wide diversity of areas in which wheat is grown throughout the world and its universal use as human food makes it the oldest of our food grains in cultivation. The time is not far distant when we will have wheat and oats expositions.

"Whether the growth and cultivation of wheat has reached the zenith of its perfection is yet a mooted question. Thus far it has not been given that attention in cultivation from the manner of its growth that can and has been given to corn. The

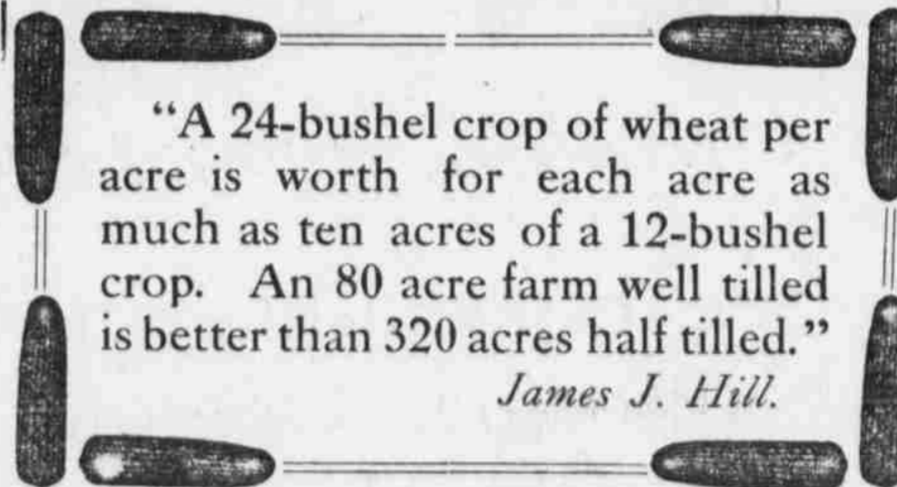
same observation will apply to oats and other small grains. Experiments are being made in wheat culture that are bound to result in an improved product and an increased yield. Inasmuch as corn has shown that it will respond to intelligent care there is every reason to believe that wheat, oats, barley and rye will do the same."

HOW OMAHA LANDED THE EXPO

(Continued from Page One.)

be held in Omaha, we believe we have done the best thing for the University of Nebraska," said George Coupland, a member of the Board of Regents, at this meeting.

"In no way could the people of the state be better shown what is being done at the university farm than by having an exhibit and a demonstrator at the National Corn exposition. If we had more money we certainly would have doubled the amount ap-



"A 24-bushel crop of wheat per acre is worth for each acre as much as ten acres of a 12-bushel crop. An 80 acre farm well tilled is better than 320 acres half tilled."
James J. Hill.

Nebraska for First Prize.

"Nebraska must carry off the first prizes at the corn show," said Mr. Coupland, "for it will not do for this state to take a back seat for any other in the union. The National Corn exposition will be the greatest advertisement Nebraska has ever had and it will do more for the great state than anyone can know."

Nebraska, as a state, was naturally one of the first commonwealths to organize for the show and early in the year the governor appointed a state commission to look after the state's exhibit. This commission is composed of William Ernst of Tecumseh, E. A. Burnett of Montgomery and W. H. Mellor and R. Hogue of Crete.

Hard and painstaking work was being done all the time by the committee members and others and they secured the cooperation of the governors of other states, the aid of the railway companies, and subscriptions from public enterprises of every character. Corporations, bankers, wholesalers, retailers, the packing house industries, all came forward with their subscriptions and in a short time the stock subscription amounted to \$50,000, one of the most substantial that has been made in any public enterprise.

Sister Cities Help.

Omaha was not alone in securing the exposition and in the making of preliminary arrangements and perfecting plans for

the big show, for Council Bluffs and South Omaha entered into the game with as much interest and vigor as did the city which is host to the exhibit. The members of the executive committee from these two cities served faithfully and worked as hard as any Omahan, and business men in the Bluffs and the Magic City to the south, did their full share, furnishing as much money to finance the exposition as any and giving liberally of their wares for premiums. Through the co-operation of the three cities—Omaha, South Omaha and Council Bluffs—the exposition was secured for the west, it being doubtful in the minds of the directors if Omaha could have swung it alone.

The influence of the railroads, from the presidents down, has been behind the exposition from the start and the publicity departments of these trunk lines flooded the country with literature setting forth the advantages of the show as no other organization could or would do. Cheap rates by these companies will also result in a much larger attendance, to say nothing of a much larger show.

One man who has worked in season and out for the success of the exposition is Everett Buckingham, general manager of the South Omaha Stock yards and another is F. L. Haller. Both joined C. C. Rosewater and Mr. Sturges in going to other cities in the interest of it.

Mr. Buckingham proved a great factor in landing the support of the railroads. Being a railroad official himself for many years prior to his present engagement, he knew the modus operandi. So when he and Mr. Rosewater went to Chicago to secure the co-operation of the railroads they went, not to the subordinate officials, heads of various departments, but directly to the presidents of the roads. They got the highest official of each line interested and their work was done. They began at the top and worked down, not at the bottom to work up.

Buckingham knew the ropes and crawled them. "Hello, Buck, sit down; well, where in the world did you come from? Glad to see you. What can I do for you?" That was the greeting he got at the hands of President Winchell of the Rock Island. That tells the whole story.

Origin of the Institution.

The first National Corn exposition given in the United States, was that at Chicago, beginning October 3, 1892. Chicago is not in the heart of the corn belt, as is Omaha, and the Chicago exposition was purely a corn show, no other cereals being placed on exhibit. Omaha is the very "buckle" of the "corn belt" and the Omaha exposition, now almost ready for the public, will be four times larger than that held in Chicago, one year ago. Corn will naturally be king of the show, but other cereals will be shown as well.

And the central location of Omaha—central as regards the geographical location, central as regards the agricultural population—was a big factor in getting the exposition of this city. The National Corn exposition is the result of evolution from the corn club, township, district, county and state corn shows, and in this evolutionary process has reached the stupendous limits that will be illustrated in the exposition now about to open in Omaha. The first big attempt at a corn exposition was in Peoria, Illinois, in 1900 or 1901 and its success insured their annual recurrence, being given under the auspices of the Illinois Corn Growers' association.

From these state associations sprang the National Corn association and the National Corn exposition. This corn association works in connection with the National Corn exposition association, which are creations of the cities in which the expositions are held. These exposition associations are not a part of the National Corn association, but simply work in conjunction with the latter. Exhibitors at the National Corn exposition must be members of the National Corn association. The exposition associations are composed of commercial and their bodies in the communities in which the expositions are held.

Relation to Institute.
The local corn shows of Illinois, Iowa and Indiana and others states, where they are held, occupy an important and extremely valuable relation to the farmers' institutes, corn clubs, county and state fairs. The corn exhibit at the national expositions is practically the survival of the fittest, or prize exhibits shown at the corn clubs, institutes, county and state fairs, and state corn shows. Only the best of these exhibits are shown at the exposition next above in importance. This was the rule applied at the National Corn exposition at Chicago and will be applied here in Omaha.

The judges of the National Corn exposition are selected from the members of the National Corn association and comprise the best corn breeders and corn experts of the world. All of the corn exhibited at the National expositions become the property of the exposition association. The prize corn is auctioned off on the last days of the exposition and fancy prices are often bid for the most valued specimens. At Chicago last year \$250 was bid for the first prize ear of corn. The corn breeders are invariably the bidders for these prize exhibits. The corn not securing prizes is returned to the breeder making the exhibit.

DIAZ BUST ON A SILVER MEDAL

President of Mexico Will Be Honored at the National Corn Exposition.

The photographic likeness of President Diaz of Mexico will be mounted on a silver medal and presented as a prize-mark by the delegates from that enterprising little republic, three of whom have been commissioned by the government to attend the exposition. Besides these, others, including Hon. Zeferino Dominguez, the distinguished philanthropist and student of agriculture, will be here and take an active part. Indeed the latter has offered a trophy valued at \$1,500, himself. The Diaz bust will be the official medal of Mexico. Mexico is the place of nativity of King Corn and it is highly gratifying to the management of the exposition that the government there should exercise so great an interest in the show. The distinguished Mexicans will be accorded every courtesy and honor while in Omaha and they bid fair to attract an unusual amount of interest.

Only Told One Story.

"I hope you were a good little boy while at your aunt's and didn't tell any stories," said his mother. "Only the one you put me up to, ma, replied her young helper, including 'Why, what do you mean, child?' "When she asked me if I'd like to have a second piece of cake I said, 'Yes, thank you; I've had enough.'"