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THIS WEEK'S PAPER—SOME RANDOM COMMENTS.

We have tried to write the word timeliness across the face of every page of this week's Progressive Farmer. We like to have this characteristic prominent in every issue; in this week's paper we flatter ourselves that it is a distinguishing quality.

To begin with, here is our front page feature on the right type of ears to select for seed corn coming just at a time when nine farmers out of ten are in their corn cribs puzzling over this very problem; while on page 2 are the plans and drawings of the King split-log drag, the simple and cheap device which will do so much for the country roads this season if applied in time. Explicit directions accompany the drawings.

It is not yet time to build a silo, but if you are to have one this year, it is not too soon to plan for it and to plant for it. Hence the illustrated article by Mr. A. L. French on page 3.

On pages 4 and 5 are two striking and timely articles on the first cultivation of corn and cotton. A world of labor may be saved by taking these crops in time, and it is shown by both Mr. Redding and Prof. Tracy that the harrow applied early and often is the best ally of the young crop against the hard crust and the grass. It is no small matter to understand killing weeds at the rate of sixteen acres a day without hurting the young corn and cotton.

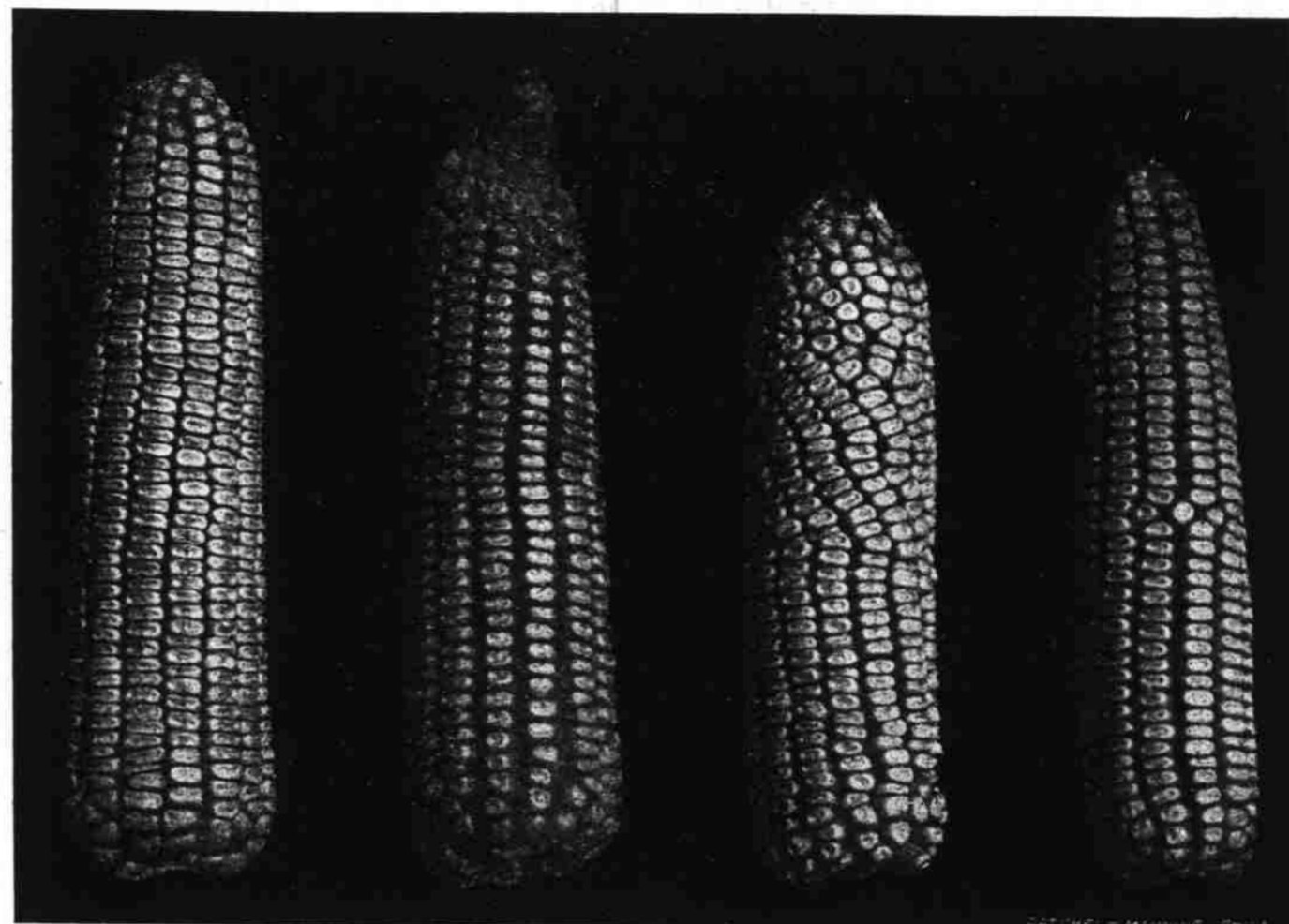
Our page 6 is brimming over with practical and helpful letters from farmers who have their eyes open and who write straight from the plow handles. And when a farmer sits down to tell a thing he usually does it with as few frills as anybody in the world. For example, we defy any college professor to pack an article fuller of points and ideas than Mr. Dumville's letter on getting the biggest values out of corn. And all the others have the same practical qualities.

Page 7 opens to us a fine scheme of Uncle Jo's for preserving summer eggs for winter use. And it gives us also the answers which actual experiments have found to the question: What is the right distance to plant cotton? This last is an excellent article by Mr. C. B. Williams.

The idea of timeliness is emphasized by the poem, An April Idyl, by the Butterfly article and by the health talk on the Feeding of Children which appear in the Home Circle on page 8. Especially at this season, when there is likely to be more or less spring sickness among the children, it is advisable to note well the valuable points in this health talk. Nor is the element of timeliness lacking either in our Social Chat articles on page 9 or in the children's columns on page 17 where many things are mentioned that may be learned in a brief journey to nature.

How to Get the Right Type of Ears for Seed Corn.

The only rational way to select seed corn is to pick your seed ears in the field when you have the whole stalk before you and can compare yield and thereby get the best ears from the most productive stalks—usually those bearing two ears. Our readers who failed to make such a selection last year are likely to lose many bushels in this year's crop by reason of their negligence. Whether or not your seed ears were selected in this fashion, however, you can help your 1907 corn yield materially by planting seed from the right type of ears;



(1) (2) (3) (4)

POOR AND WELL-SHAPED EARS.

No. 1 is a well-shaped ear, illustrating the good points mentioned in the article herewith and the right type for seed corn, while Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are all undesirable ears to select for seed purposes.

and to aid at this point we are reprinting herewith the article by Mr. C. B. Williams of the Department of Agriculture on "The Right Kind of Ear to Select for Seed" giving in detail the points you ought to consider in making the final choice in your corn crib:

Shape.—The cylindrical ear (as shown by No. 1 in the cut herewith) is the best type, as it is the one that generally yields the highest percentage and the largest total amount of shelled corn. The rows of kernels should run parallel the full length of the cob without change in shape or diminution in size, or if so, but very slightly. If the ears are tapering towards the tip there is a suppression of yield, due to one or both of two causes, viz., (1) diminished size of kernels at the tips, and (2) dropping of rows of kernels an inch or so from the tip end.

Color.—Yellow corn should have a deep-red cob, while white corn should possess a white one, and any variation from these types is indicative of crossing of varieties. The market price of meal or grits made from white corn with red cobs is lower because of particles of the red cobs getting into the corn and being ground in with meal, giving it a reddish and unattractive cast.

Size of Cob.—A medium-sized cob is the best, because it usually yields the largest proportion of corn to cob. If the cob is small, of necessity the number of grain rows is restricted, and when large the proportion of corn to cob is reduced.

Length and Circumference.—The length to cir-

cumference should be about as 4 to 3, i. e., if the ear is eight inches long its circumference should be approximately six inches, when measured about one-third the way from the butt to the tip, to produce the largest yield. Too large circumference usually indicates small narrow kernels of low vitality and poor feeding value.

Filling Out of Butts and Tips.—The more perfectly ears are filled at butts and tips, the larger the percentage yield of corn. It is possible, by rigid selection of ears filled compactly at butts and tips, to increase materially within a few years the annual yield over corn in which no consideration is given to these characteristics. Notice the poorly and well-tipped ears as shown in the illustration.

Number of and Distance Between Rows of Kernels.—The number of rows to the ear should be comparatively large and the distance between them very small to secure the highest percentage yields. A wide sulcus, or distance between rows, indicates a reversion to an inferior type that will not justify the farmer of to-day in growing. In our cut herewith is strikingly shown the difference in the solid setting of corn. In No. 1 there is little or no space between the rows, while in No. 2 there is considerable.

If the article by Mr. H. M. Daniel (page 12) is not the most timely, it is certainly not the least entertaining of this week's contributions. The prosperity of the West, the way things are done in the other fellow's country, the stock, the power, raising ten-cent corn with thousand dollar teams—these are some of the things seen by his farmer eyes on his trip which go to make up this interesting article.

This week Mr. E. D. Smith, National Organizer for the cotton growers, will begin an important ten days' campaign in North Carolina with President Charles Cotton Moore. The latter takes this occasion to write another one of his unique let-

ters to Mrs. Farmer, and also to publish on another page a list of appointments.

And finally, the flowers that bloom in the spring—and all the year round—are found in Mrs. Grimes's Farm Home Beautiful garden on page 16, while scattered here and there throughout the paper is a variety of helpful shorter articles "too numerous to mention."

And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running
brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.
—William Shakespeare.