

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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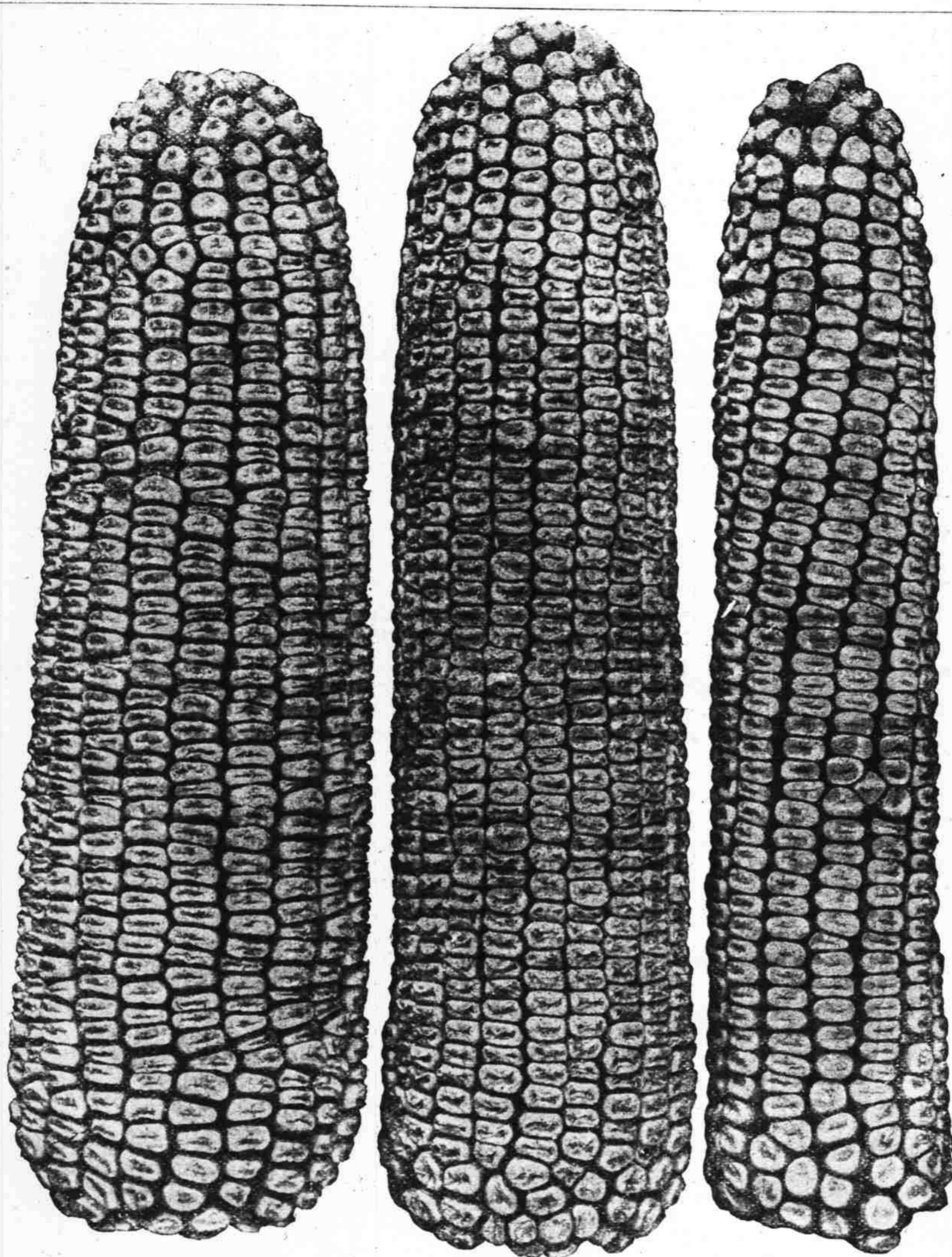
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## Doubling the Value of the South's Corn Crop: How to Do It.

Home-Raised Hog and Hominy; Cheaper Cotton and Cattle; More Mules and Machinery—these are three alliterative mottoes of The Progressive Farmer, and not the least of these is "Home-Raised Hog and Hominy." The first part of this motto was covered in our Hog and Bacon Specials some weeks ago. "Move your smoke-house from the West," was then our advice, and to this we now add, "Move your corn crib also." A full hundred years of farming experience has proved beyond doubt that the only permanently prosperous farmer is the one who, as the old proverb has it, "lives at home and boards at the same place": he does not have his crib and smoke-house a thousand miles away. And that is a pertinent inquiry made elsewhere in this issue: Did you ever know a farmer who had corn to sell who was not well-to-do and a man looked up to in his neighborhood?

The trouble about us here in the South is that we have given a little land to corn except that left over after the best had been given to cotton and that we have cultivated even this only after our best attention has been given to cotton. But now a revolution has set in. All over the South corn-raising is having more attention, and in some counties Corn Conventions have aroused no less enthusiasm than political rallies in the olden days. And this is well. And it is well, too, that we are beginning to recognize a half-dozen reforms in our manner of handling the corn crop in the South.

In the first place, there is the matter of seed. A carefully bred and carefully selected variety will undoubtedly make 33 1-3 per cent more than common scrub seed. In other words, with the same labor, foresight, fertilizer - expense,



TOO COARSE

IDEAL TYPE

TOO SMALL

This criticism of three typical ears of corn—the middle ear being the best for seed—will help our readers in selecting their planting corn. Selection should be made in the fall from stalks producing the largest total of shelled corn, and then only the best of these ears used for seed the following spring.

machinery - expense, land-rent expense and tax-expense, you can make 33 1-3 per cent more bushels by growing the variety best adapted to your soil and section, and you are **THROWING AWAY** just this much corn by planting poorly selected seed from scrub varieties.

And having found the best variety, the seed must be selected from the field, for while crib selection is better than none, it is impossible to tell in the crib which ears are from stalks growing only one ear and which from stalks growing two or more ears. (1) The best variety of corn and (2) field selection to keep up its quality must be, therefore, a primary consideration.

Then we need better preparation of the land for corn (and for all other crops, for that matter). "Deeper preparation, -shallower cultivation": this is a good motto for most farmers, and to this should be added, "Get rid of hand hoeing." In growing corn there is small reason why we should not use the same labor-saving implements by which corn is made so cheaply in the Great West. The photograph on this page in last week's issue—cultivating two rows at once—is a good illustration of how a good corn crop may be made without hand hoeing.

Then having cultivated the crop with small expense, do not follow the suicidal policy of tearing up the corn roots when the crop is laid by. It is by its roots that the corn plant gets the food by which it grows, and aside from the cruelty of it, it would be no less foolish to knock out half the teeth of your grazing cow and expect her to do as well than it is to cut half the roots of your growing corn and expect the yield not to be decreased.

Last of all comes the stover and here it is that after working half the year to make the crop, our farmers throw away about a fourth of its value. Only 51 per cent of the feeding value of the corn plant is in the ear and the other 49 per cent must be had through silage or shredding. Fodder pulling is folly. This phase of the corn question, however, will be discussed at greater length in later issues of our paper, and for the present we leave the messages in this issue with our readers, emphasizing as they do—

Better preparation and shallower cultivation; better varieties and better selection of seed; doing away with hand hoeing; the folly of cutting corn roots; and the saving of the stover.

With a proper regard for these principles it is not one whit too much to claim that the value of the South's corn crop to the farmer may be doubled without extra cost—and this would mean millions to the South.

"By proper and systematic breeding, we can increase the corn crop per acre almost, if not quite, as much as by the improvement of the soil itself."

(See article on Corn Growing in the South by Prof. Massey on page 11.)

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