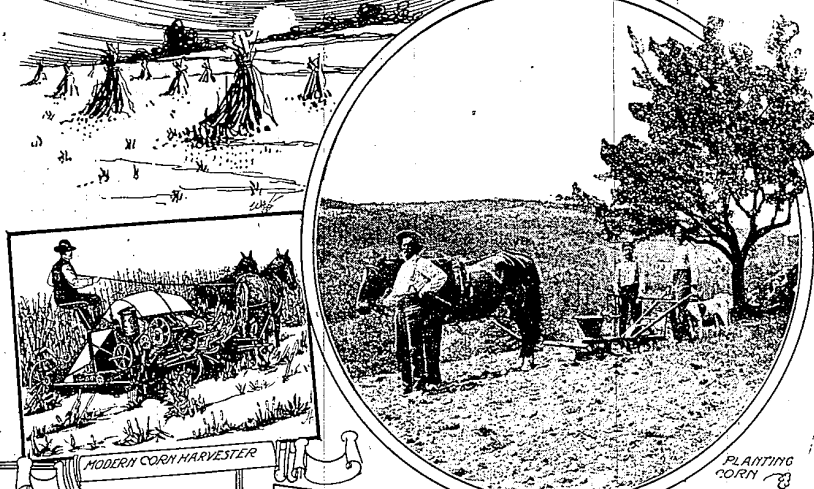


# UP-TO-DATE METHODS OF HANDLING THE CORN CROP.

HERE is no branch of agricultural activity in the United States where the past few years has witnessed greater improvement in methods of cultivation and harvesting than in the sphere of corn growing. This is as it should be for corn is easily one of our most important crops. Indeed, although the fact is not generally recognized, it is a greater wealth producer—considered in the broad sense—than is the wheat crop.

The advance, which has been made concerns not only the methods employed in cultivating and handling the corn crop but also the means employed, that is the machinery which is doing so much to aid human brains in caring for the golden kernels.

Whereas progressive farmers have in many instances worked out their own salvation as regards the improved methods of corn cultivation, it is perhaps only fair to give the major portion of the credit to the United States department of agriculture, which has worked in co-operation with the State Agricultural colleges and experiment stations to bring about a better understanding of the requirements of the corn crop. Many an old-fashioned farmer has been wont to assume that every tiller of the soil knew from his boyhood experience on the farm all that there is to know about growing corn and yet the experts of the agriculture department found that in reality there



A FAMILIAR SCENE IN THE "CORN BELT"

was more widespread misconception regarding the needs of corn than about any other leading farm commodity.

For the purpose of putting our farmers on the right track in their corn growing Uncle Sam during the past few years had field agents or demonstrators traveling about the country all the while to give advice and assistance to the corn growers who do not appear to be doing the thing the best way. At first there was a disposition to regard with distrust if not with suspicion the advice of these "book farmers," but gradually as they proved that they could double and triple corn yields with scarcely a cent of extra expense, they won over to their side a considerable portion of the farming community and this "missionary work" is now being extended until in time it will embrace the "corn belt" where strange as it may seem the farmers are not getting nearly all that they should get from the land—that is if you let these government chaps tell it.

The first boost that was given to the American corn crop came through improvement by seed selection. The experts have induced the farmers to select their seed corn with great care in the field instead of merely making use of what happens to remain in the crib at planting time and the improvement from this cause alone has approximated, at least twenty per cent. Most of the progressive corn growers have also awakened to the wisdom of properly preserving seed corn by keeping it dry during the winter in a special seed house instead of merely entrusting it to the corn crib in the old haphazard way. It has now come to the pass where the best quality of corn is worth 25 per bushel more for seed purposes than unselected corn.

A second effective method of improving our corn crop has as its purpose the improvement of the condition of the soil in accordance with the studied requirements of corn cultivation. Modern science is teaching the farmer that it simply will not pay to attempt corn growing on poor land until it is brought into a fertile condition by the growing hard plowing under of



MODERN CORN SHOCKER

leguminous crops, the application of manure, etc. In not a few instances corn farms have been rendered more profitable by rearranging the fields in order to make them more uniform as regards moisture and soil fertility. Soil washing, that is the washing away of the surface soil—one of the bane of corn growing—is being prevented by systematic means such as were almost unheard of a few years ago.

The big problem of fertilizers is one which touches the very heart of the corn-growing industry and the experts in and out of the government service have prepared very explicit directions for enabling the corn grower to add to his soil nitrogen or whatever other ingredients are most needed to produce the longest and best ears of corn. It has been found upon investigation that many farmers have had very different ideas as to how corn should be planted and cultivated but at the same time it has been discovered that no vast machinery from the date above mentioned was not until 1921 that Cyrus McCormick made the first reaping machine.

Despite the fact that there was almost continuous experiment in the sphere of corn harvesting machinery from the date above mentioned it was not until 1921 that success crowned the efforts of the inventors. The principle in corn harvesters and binders which was destined to appear in the year mentioned, the invention of an Illinois man. In its elementary form it consisted of a corn harvester with the two drivers passing, one on each side of a row of corn, which was cut and carried back

A MODERN CORN HARVESTER

An odd circumstance in connection with this phase of the crusade for better methods of handling the corn crop was the discovery by Uncle Sam's investigation that corn growers as a class are very conservative, altogether too conservative, indeed, for their own good. The implements and methods employed in Iowa are entirely different from those of Connecticut and the latter, in turn, are dissimilar to those in use in Georgia. No section has a monopoly of all the good things in methods and machinery and in many instances a practice in vogue in one locality could be profitably used in another district which had remained in ignorance of it. All this bids fair to be changed, however, under the present awakening. Wide-awake corn growers are paying visits to other corn-producing states than their own and the result is likely to be a general discarding of poor and adopting of improved methods.

The depth of planting, the distances between rows and hills and the depth and frequency of cultivation are all corn problems that are being solved along dependable scientific lines after a century or more of discussion and dispute. Meanwhile the improvement of corn cultivating and harvesting machinery has worked wonders in bringing about the new era in the corn fields. Mechanical corn harvesters have developed more slowly than the machines for wheat and other cereals, attempts to solve the problem of mechanically harvesting the corn crop dating from 1820, whereas it was not until 1921 that Cyrus McCormick made the first reaping machine.

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in a vertical position to the binder attachment by means of chains and gathering arms. Later various improvements and modifications of the design have been made and new inventions along the same line have been introduced. In some of the machines the binder is in almost horizontal position instead of vertical.

Naturally, badly tangled fields make the progress of a corn harvester somewhat slow, but it is remarkable with what precision the machine will right the stalks. Owing to the great variation in the height of the corn, even in the same field, the binding, attachments are given great range of operation, and in some machines they are placed as high as 32 inches. The machinings weigh from 1,400 to 1,800 pounds each and cost, on an average, \$125. The average number of acres cut per day by such a corn binder is upward of eight and the total cost per acre of harvesting the corn by this method (allowing for cost of machine, wages of driver, outlay for twine, etc.) averages about \$1.50. Corn shockers cost about as much as corn binders and weigh approximately the same. These are the ideal machines for owners of small farms who do most of their own work. A man with three horses and a corn shocker can cut about five acres of corn per day at a total expense of \$1.06 per acre as against \$1.50 per acre with the machine previously described.

The fundamental features of the corn shocker are the circular rotating cutters which cut the corn as the machine advances and the circular rotating table upon which the corn is collected vertically to form a shock. A leading device for handling the shocks adds greatly to the efficiency of the modern approved type of machine. Corn pickers, machines which remove the ears from the stalks (which latter are left in the field) cost \$250 each and are operated at an expense of \$1.81 per acre. Combined huskers and shredders are the latest additions to corn handling machinery and on up-to-date farms these are in many instances operated by gasoline engines.

The Quaker Scored.  
An old Quaker went into a bookseller's shop, and an impertinent shopman, wishing to have some sport at his expense, said to him:  
"You are from the country, are you not?"  
"Yes," replied the Quaker.  
Then here is just the thing for you," responded the man, holding out the book.  
"What is it?" asked the Quaker.  
"It is an 'Essay on Rearing Donkeys.'"  
"Friend," said the Quaker, "I had better present that to my mother."

## DISFIGURED WITH CRUSTS

"Some time ago I was taken with eczema from the top of my head to my waist. It began with scales on my body. I suffered untold itching and burning, and could not sleep. I was greatly disfigured with scales and crusts. My ears looked as if they had been most cut off with a razor, and my neck was perfectly raw. I suffered untold agony and pain. I tried two doctors who said I had eczema in its fullest stage, and that it could not be cured. I then tried other remedies to no avail. At last, I tried a set of the genuine Cuticura Remedies, which cured me of eczema when all else had failed, therefore I cannot praise them too highly.

"I suffered with eczema about ten months, but am now entirely cured, and I believe Cuticura Remedies are the best skin cure there is." (Signed) Miss Mattie J. Shaffer, R. P. D. 1, Box 8, Dancy, Miss., Oct. 27, 1910.

"I had suffered from eczema about four years when boils began to break out on different parts of my body. It started with a fine red rash. My back was affected first, when it also spread over my face. The itching was almost unbearable at times. I tried different soaps and salves, but nothing seemed to help me until I began to use the Cuticura Soap and Ointment. One box of them cured me entirely. I recommended them to my sister for her baby who was troubled with tooth eczema, and they completely cured her baby." (Signed) Mrs. P. L. Narberger, Drexelsville, Pa., Sept. 6, 1910.

Although Cuticura Soap and Ointment are sold everywhere, a sample of each, with 22-page book, will be mailed free on application to "Cuticura," Dept. 4 L. Boston.

## DECIDED NOT TO OPEN IT.



Chlor—I was thinking about opening a drug store in this neighborhood. Do you think one is needed around here?

Resident—Great idea. There's no place within ten blocks where a man can buy stamps or see the city directory.

Honors More Than Even.  
Mrs. Patrick Campbell is not kindly inclined to criticism of her work. At a rehearsal of a new play, one morning, her manager, Charles Frohman, stopped Mrs. Campbell and said: "Mrs. Campbell, it seems to me that those lines should be delivered thus," repeating the lines in question. Mrs. Campbell drew herself up and said: "Mr. Frohman, I am an artist." That is all right, Mrs. Campbell," replied the urbane manager. "I assure you I will never reveal your secret."

Quarters and Halves.  
George Ade, at the recent 'Lamb's Gambol' in New York, objected to the extravagance of the modern wife. "It is true that the married men of today," he ended, "have better halves, but bachelors have better quarters."

## A Triumph Of Cookery—

## Post Toasties

Many delicious dishes have been made from Indian Corn by the skill and ingenuity of the expert cook.

But none of these creations excel Post Toasties in tempting the palate.

"Toasties" are a luxury that make a delightful hot-weather economy.

The first package tells its own story.

## "The Memory Lingers"

Sold by Grocers

POSTUM CEREAL CO., Ltd.,  
Bartle Creek, Mich., U. S. A.

## Nervousness—A Lack of Control

How often we meet women who complain of being nervous. What they really mean is that they have not control of their nerves, but let them run away. A woman may be of a nervous temperament and yet have such good control of her nerves that she never complains of being nervous.

"This lack of nerve-control manifests itself in various ways. Sometimes it is only a tendency to cry at trivial things or an inclination to despondency—to have 'the blues,' or to worry over real or fancied slight. Many women waste so much time thinking over things that are past and gone. A visit with a friend loses its joy in the afterthought, for this victim of the nerves lives over again every moment of the visit. She recalls everything that has been said and wonders if a different meaning was meant. Things that were said as a joke and originally taken that way are now brought up and pondered over until the woman convinces herself of the presence of a hidden meaning. She is not satisfied until she has bent and

## To Raize Old Paris Fortress

Fortifications Now Useless—Unstable Persons Rent Space From Government and Attack Pedestrians.

There is talk, as there has been talk for years, of leveling the fortifications of Paris, which are perfectly useless now in the improved conditions of modern warfare, and of building houses on the large tract of ground which would be set free right round Paris. At present the fortifications are not only useless as a protection to the city in time of war, but they are absolutely dangerous to the citizens in time of peace. According to the law a large space around the fortifications is kept free of all stone buildings. This military zone, as it is called, has no houses upon it, but little one-story huts are allowed to be built there and are rated at tiny rentals by the military authorities. Their cheapness and discomfort attract undesirable tenants, and the Paris apache has for years made a bustling ground of the fortifications. Only a few days ago a rich Rus-

sian, M. Ivanoff, had gone for a drive in a taxi-cab. The motor broke down near the fortifications, and while it was being put right M. Ivanoff went for a stroll. He was not more than a couple of hundred yards away from the fortifications when a mob of 150 men attacked him, stabbed him in seven places, robbed him of all his money and his watch and chain and a valuable scarf-pin, and left him for dead. The two women have been arrested, but their companions are still at large. The incident is being used as another argument for the leveling of the fortifications. Another argument still is, of course, the great value of the land for building purposes.

A Suggestion.  
"If the sea had a milky way as well as the sky wouldn't it be convenient for the sailors?"  
"In what way?"  
"They could have floating dairies when their boats skimmed the waves."

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