

# MARION LEADING CORN COUNTY OF OREGON

Has Been Since 1920, with Polk County Probably Second; and Marion Now or Soon Will Be Leading Corn County in Northwest, Polk Second—Acclimated Seed Important Factor

(The following has been furnished to The Statesman by the farm crops department of the Oregon Agricultural college):  
The last official figures given by the bureau of crop estimates for the crop year 1920 show Marion county with 6675 acres and 213,600 bushels of corn and Lane county with 6365 acres and 190,950 bushels to be the leading corn counties in Oregon. Of course, for the past season these figures may be greatly changed, but they are changed for the better, because corn has won its way in the Willamette valley. The 1923 figures for Oregon show 71,000 acres produced 2,485,000 bushels, an increase of 49,000 acres and 1,825,000 bushels over the season of 1914, or an increase of more than 200 per cent. It is estimated that nearly 75 per cent of the corn grown in the state is used for silage and fodder.

**Has High Farm Value**  
Corn has a high farm value in Oregon. In 1922 the average price on the farm in Oregon was 91 cents a bushel, while the price in Iowa was but 56 cents. For the year ending September, 1923, there were 1812 cars of corn inspected at Portland and Seattle. These cars, together with cars received at points where no inspection is made, make a total of more than 2000 cars shipped into the Pacific northwest in one year. There is not much danger of overdoing corn growing for the present, at least. For the ten year period from 1913-1922 corn had the high acre value in Oregon of \$36.65 an acre while winter wheat had an acre value of \$28.22 and spring wheat \$20.65.

**Can Stand Expansion**  
Corn is the one cultivated crop that can stand expansion in acreage, and a cultivated crop is of prime value in every section. Instead of one-third to one-fifth of our western Oregon acreage in cultivated crop, as would be the case if we were using good rotations, our entire state acreage of all inter-tilled crops is only equal to a strip about two and three-fourths to three miles wide extending from Corvallis to Portland. This little strip is not enough to control weeds or provide the early fall grain seed beds which are so productive of small grain and which pave the way for good clover stands.

Of course, it is true that corn growing requires special machinery and every corn grower should

be equipped with the proper implements such as planters and cultivators to take care of the crop. But the price of corn is holding its own, and it always will as long as the following facts hold true.

**High Values in United States**  
Corn produces more food value per acre than any other crop. A 35 bushel crop gives nearly 150 pounds of protein and more than 3,000,000 units of energy. Corn, consumed directly and in the form of meat, dairy and poultry products, is the principal source of food of the American people.

Corn has never been used as extensively for human food as wheat. However, millions of the poorer classes in Mexico, Italy, Argentina, Spain and the Balkan states eat far more corn than wheat. The value of corn in the agriculture of the United States is well known. In acreage, in multiplicity of uses, in production and in value, it exceeds any other cultivated crop. In the decade, 1908 to 1917, the acreage devoted to corn in this country was 4.8 per cent greater than the combined acreage of the crops of wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, buckwheat and flax. The value of the corn crop for the same period was 24.3 per cent more than the combined values of these crops.

**Cool Nights Not Always Objectionable**  
It is a common belief that corn will not grow satisfactorily in regions where the nights are cool, though the days be warm. Usually, the true explanation why corn is not grown in such sections is something else. In South Africa, where corn growing has expanded at a phenomenal rate since 1900, the minimum temperature at night during the tasseling season averages only about 60 degrees, and in some sections it is as low as 55 degrees. Cool nights reduce the rapidity of growth previous to tasseling, but if the season is long there is no definite proof that cool nights (55 to 60 degrees at the low point of the night) reduce the yield.

**Many Varieties**  
Corn, in its distribution over the United States, has been changed in many ways by nature and by the plant breeder and farmer. The corn crop has shown especial adaptability to differences in length of season. At the present time, there are at least 1000 varieties, some of which mature in

80 days in the north and others in 150 days or more in the south. Because of its wonderful adaptation to conditions, the crop is now grown with success in every state of the nation, from sea level to plateaus a mile above.

Minnesota 13 is a standard medium-early silage variety for western Oregon. It is leafy, produces a medium-sized stalk and a good ear. Golden Glow and some other varieties locally selected for several years are excellent on the river bottom soils of the Willamette valley.

**Kind of Seed to Use**  
Ordinarily, it is a poor practice to buy seed corn. The average farmer should rely chiefly on seed grown in his own field or his neighbor's field until he has proved by actual test in his own field that a certain strain from outside has greater yielding power.

Farmers have observed the superiority of well adapted varieties. This superiority is demonstrated when good home grown seed is planted in comparison with seed imported from a distance. The value of home grown seed was shown in two series of five year tests conducted by the United States department of agriculture in cooperation with 28 state experiment stations. Equivalent lots of seed were grown each year at all the stations. These experiments indicated that varieties which produce best at home often yield poorest when tested under another environment.

Too many will send away for seed when better seed may be found at home than can be obtained anywhere else. It is always uncertain to buy seed from a distance, and this is doubly true when good seed is scarce. One is likely to pay much more than it would cost to separate out the good ears by means of the germination test. If seed corn must be purchased, it should be obtained from a locality where soil and climatic conditions are practically identical with those of the place where the corn is to be grown. The price of seed corn is not important. The cost of from two to five dollars a bushel, the average price of seed corn, is small as compared to the loss of a large part of the crop. At 50 cents a bushel, the produce of a bushel of seed is worth \$150. The loss of stand, immaturity, etc., resulting from unadapted seed corn may actually cause a loss of \$20 or \$30 per bushel of seed planted.

**Fertile Soil Desirable**  
Corn does best where the soils are well drained, rich, mellow, and warm and where moisture is available throughout the growing season. Sandy river-bottom lands of the Willamette valley as well as the mellow rolling and hill soils produce good corn. Usually smaller and shorter-season varieties must be grown.

Corn is the rankest feeding and the most destructive of soil fertility of all our common crops. Only on the very richest soils can corn be grown for more than two years in succession with assurance of profit. In humid regions or increased by the use of (1) rotations, (2) barnyard manure, (3) clover, (4) crop residues, (5) good tillage, (6) commercial fertilizers.

**Get a Good Stand**  
Plowing should be six to eight inches deep and EARLY. The seed bed is worked early and if so loose as to cause too deep planting it should be rolled. Late working previous to planting should be a shallow harrowing to kill weeds and maintain the mulch. Late deep workings as disking or springtoothing bring up new weed seeds. Where the seed bed is in good tilth it is best to make the late workings shallow.

When corn is planted in cold, wet soils, germination is slow and weak. Soil fungi attack the seed before it gets started and rot it. When planted right, in mellow, moist, warm soil, germination is prompt and the stand is good.

Many people bury rather than plant their seed corn. Plant it just deep enough to cover it in mellow moist soil. One and one-half to two inches on loamy soils is deep enough; slightly deeper is better on sandy soils. A good stand of corn usually means a good yield. No field full of missing or vacant hills can produce well. Poor stands are the result of:

- (1) Poorly prepared seed beds.
- (2) Dead seed.
- (3) Poorly graded seed.
- (4) Planting when too cold or wet.
- (5) Too deep planting.

**Harvesting the Crop**  
When corn is beginning to ear out it is ready for green feed, but it is better when well eared. The best silage stage is reached when the ears are in an advanced hard-dough stage, the kernels well glazed and dented, and the husks beginning to dry. At this same stage hogging off may advantageously begin, but the hogs must become accustomed to it as it is still somewhat immature.

When husked, any soft or immature ears should be sorted out and fed. The sound ears remaining may be safely stored in well ventilated (slatted) and well roofed cribs, protected from rodents. It is important to remember that corn for husking should be left in the fields after maturity so that the ears will dry out. This is true even under rainy harvest conditions.

**Corn Growing is Very Desirable**  
Early corn grown for hogging off while the fields are dry enough

and dry corn husked to feed out and larger yields of both forage and grain. The price of corn per bushel will be high until local production will take care of the demand and the yearly importation of 2000 cars is done away with. (Since Marion was the leading corn county of Oregon back in 1920, and there has been a wonderful growth of the industry here every year since, which has also extended to Polk, the writer believes he is entirely correct in claiming that Marion county is the leading corn county not only of Oregon now, but also the leading corn county of the Pacific northwest, and that Polk county is a good second. And this growth will be as great this year as it has been in the past several, if there is not a still greater increase both of acreage and production per acre.—Ed.)

# SHOE SALE

## THUR. FRI. SAT.

Big Reductions for these three days  
Be Sure and get Here before These High Grade Shoes are all Gone  
Good Shoes At Wholesale Prices

### LADIES' SHOES

- LADIES' BLACK CALF MEDIUM HEEL OXFORDS, regular \$7 grades, most all sizes, to close out, go in this sale at **\$3.95**
- LADIES' BROWN CALF OXFORDS, low heel, regular \$7 grade, while they last, go at **\$3.95**
- LADIES' NEW STYLE PATENT LEATHER OXFORD, the best looking \$8 value you ever saw, goes in this sale at **\$4.95**
- THE NEW BLACK AND BROWN CREASE VAMP, low heel oxford, the best selling shoe on the market, \$9 values at **\$5.95**
- GREY SUEDE with black patent leather trim Oxfords, the best \$8 value in the world; get a pair of these the first day at **\$4.95**
- NUDE Ooze with brown trim, regular \$7 grade, most all sizes, flat heel, a wonderful value, goes at **\$4.95**
- SELBY BROWN SUEDE OXFORD, all sizes, a very new style and the best \$9 value we have; we are going to close out these wonderful shoes at **\$5.95**
- GREY SUEDE with brown trim, the best \$7 oxford in Salem, these go while they last at **\$4.95**
- GREY STRAP PUMP with black trim, most all sizes, regular \$8 value, to close out while they last at **\$4.95**
- TAN SUEDE with brown calf trim, two-strap, the best \$10 value in our store; we have a few pairs, most all sizes, to go at **\$5.95**
- BROWN KID STRAP, a very fashionable lightweight shoe, Cuban heels, all sizes, \$9 value, go in this sale at **\$5.95**
- BLACK SUEDE, patent trim, a very new pattern, Cuban heel, all sizes; get a pair the first day if you want a pair at **\$6.95**
- GLAZED KID STRAP, Cuban heel pump, regular \$8 value, a very new style; they will be a riot **\$4.95**
- 200 pairs odd sizes, odd styles, ranging in price from \$8 to \$12.50; a few pairs of Hannan's broken sizes in the lot; take your choice **\$4.95**
- OLD LADIES' COMFORT SHOES, all sizes and widths with dozens of styles to pick from, regular \$5 and \$6 values; get a pair in this sale at **\$3.95**

### MEN'S AND BOY'S SHOES

- BOYS' HEAVY SHOES, a good \$5 value, while they last to close out go at **\$1.95**
- BOYS' DRESS SHOES, both in black and brown—\$5 value at \$3.95—\$7 value at **\$4.95**
- One lot CHILDREN'S HIGH TOP SHOES, regular \$6 values to close out, go at **\$2.95**
- GIRLS' PATENT LEATHER SHOES, the best \$5 value in the city, to close out at **\$2.95**
- MEN'S BLACK OR BROWN \$7 DRESS SHOES in the very newest styles, all sizes, while they last, go at **\$4.95**
- MEN'S WORK SHOES, regular \$7 and \$8 values, all sizes, colors and kinds to close out quickly at **\$4.95**
- BOYS' regular \$7 high-top boots in both black and brown, best quality, to close out while they last at **\$3.95**
- MEN'S BLACK AND BROWN \$7 OXFORDS, all sizes all styles, every pair a new style; get a pair early in the sale at **\$4.95**

### RUBBER HEELS

Put on every Wednesday

**25c**

Bring them in any day and leave them for Wednesday.



326 State St. Next to Ladd-Bush Bank

### Chiropodist

Bring your foot troubles to Dr. Williams who has been practicing 13 years in Oregon and in Salem for 2 years. Why suffer? when he can give you instant relief for all your foot ailments. Results are what count.

By Appointment Phone 616. Hours 9 to 5:30

## Beautiful Rugs at low prices

Here is a great collection of high grade Axminster Rugs. Anyone of them will enhance the beauty of your home. They are woven of materials that will withstand great wear. They are superior values—especially at this astonishing low price.

ONE BIG PILE 9x12 RUGS

Values to \$60. Your Choice at

**\$42.50**

**C.S. Hamilton**  
GOOD FURNITURE

Use Our Easy Payment Plan. We charge no interest.

Trade in your used goods. Visit our exchange department.