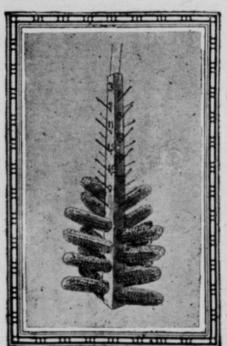
States this year will have over 90,000- produce the equivalent of at least two 000 acres planted to this king of crops. For this enormous acreage 15,000,000 grow 80 bushels of shelled corn per bushels of seed will be required.

Probably but little thought is given by the average farmer to the germin- ears for vitality is very small when it ating quality of the seed used, for he is considered that 12 or 15 ears will has so long been accustomed to get- furnish enough seed to plant one acre. ting a "stand", under ordinarily favor- Experiments have shown that if a few able conditions, varying from 60 to 85 kernels (preferably six) are taken per cent., that many have come to from different parts of an ear of corn think a more complete stand impos- and all are found to germinate well— After the kernels from the first ear that barring unfavorable weather at -practically all of the kernels on that of the germinating box, the ear is planting time, the work of grubs, wire- ear will likewise show strong vitality. son why a stand of corn should be less than 95 per cent. Of recent years, however, conditions have much improved, and never before has there been such a demand for seed corn of high vital-Some of our best farmers are beginning to realize that one of the great est factors in profitable corn production is the use of seed which will show a high per centage of germination.

If each corn grower would give a little time during the early spring to the testing of the seed, the vitality of each individual ear of corn intended for planting could be readily determined. The poor ears could then be discarded, and the millions of bushels of seed corn which fail to grow each spring could be very profitably converted into pork and beef. Of the 15,000,000 bushels of seed corn which will be planted this year, it is almost certain that from two to three million bushels, or nearly 20 per cent. of the corn first planted, will fail to grow as a result of the low vitality of the seed. Thousands of acres will have to be replanted either in their entirety or in part, and many thousands more will grow to maturity with an imperfect stand.



TESTING RACK. It seems incredible of realization, that the average yield of corn in the United States in 1905, when the total production was the largest in our hisory, was only 28.8 bushels of shelled corn per acre. It is still more surduction per acre is practically the same to-day as it was forty years ago. In fact, the average yield per acre for the individual farmer, but it should not be made waprising to know that the average prothe ten years from 1866 to 1875 was ter-tight. Instead of filling the box with 26.07 bushels as compared with 25.2 sand, soil, or sawdust, as is commonly bushels for the ten years from 1896 to recommended, the seed bed is made 1905. While there are several rea- of heavy canton flannel or similar ma-

seed of low vitality.

To Test Each Corn Ear.

The statement is made by officials of

the Department of Agriculture that

while corn breeders have achieved

marked success in the production of

improved types of corn during the last

decade, unless the farmers take better

care of their seed corn and test each

ear separately, preparatory to planting,

In our principal corn-growing States

corn is planted in hills 31/2 feet apart

each way, giving 3,556 hills per acre.

In most sections three stalks to the

hill is considered a perfect stand; in some States, two is the standard. Yet

if each hill would produce but one

medium sized ear, 6 or 7 inches in length and weighing a trifle more than

9 ounces, the yield for each acre would

be 28.8 bushels, the average yield per

size shown as A in the illustration

would give an average of 28.8 bushels

to the acre; a single ear shown as B would give 30 bushels per acre; an ear such as C would produce 40

bushels per acre; an ear such

as D would yield 45 bushels per acre;

while an ear like E, which weighs a

trifle less than a pound, would yield 50 bushels of shelled corn per acre, count-ing only one such ear for each of the

3,556 hills. There are, however, very few farmers who raise as much as 50 bushels of shelled corn per acre. Yet

every corn grower can probably pro-

A single ear of corn to the hill the

acre in the United States in 1905.

such ears to every hill? How many

acre? The time required to test individual Yet experiments have shown that is, to produce good healthy sprouts have been placed in square No. 1

test. Where only a limited number of stand would mean an increased yield ears are to be tested, a similar germ- of 298,140,695 bushels, with a value of inating apparatus may be made by \$100,739,912.91 calculated on the basis using cloth between two dinner plates. Ten inch plates will give ample space for the testing of 18 or 20 ears at one It is important that the ears time. be numbered or arranged in the same definite order as the corresponding tests in the germinating box. One of the most satisfactory methods is the use of a rack as is generally used for drying seed corn. This is generally a piece of 2 by 2 inch piece of pine from which extend on all four sides long nails, each of which is numbered. shoved on nail No. 1 of the drying rack,

The kernels in the testing box

inches long. This part of the testing

cover the box with a piece of glass, or samples tested are representative of

other tight material, to prevent the the present supply of seed corn, the evaporation of the water from the testing of every ear and the subsequent

cloths, and set the box aside for a rejection of poor ears will increase the few days to await the results of the stand 13.7 per cent. This increased

COMMON DINNER PLATE FOR SEED

TESTERS.

last ten years.

Secretary of Agriculture.

of the average yield and price for the

WOMAN'S ADVICE TO FARM.

ERS.

specialist, states that many of the in-

mind. The pioneers of the country

had no time for brooding over imagin-

they neglected to map out the proper

The cities present numerous cases



WHAT MAKES THE CORN AVERAGE LOW.

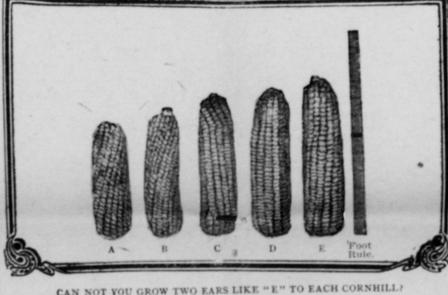
the kernels tested fail to germinate or suspended in some suitable place and courses for their children and in show only weak sprouts, the proport there need be no fear of the ears better treating them with kindness have tion will be the same for all of the ker- ing mixed while the germination test paved the way to insanity. nels on such ears. And the experienced is in progress. prised to find many a fine looking ear should begin to germinate freely a young persons brought on by dissipaof corn among his selected seed, the bout the third or fourth day, but the tion and strenuosity in the battle for kernels of which will not sprout at all. counting should not be done until the commercial supremacy.

Better Now Than Not at All.

Germination tests should be made must be done with considerable care correct the evils at home. They give five or six weeks before planting time, and requires good judgment, as ker- their children all the benefits of but even if it is necessary to stop the nels will be found in all stages of de-schools and colleges and leave out the plow in the field, it is far more profi- velopment. If the six kernels in any essential fundamental principles of table to have a good stand of corn on one square in the germinating box life. Too many are left to remain in 19 acres than it is to have a poor stand show six good healthy sprouts, the ear idleness because they are taught in on 20 acres, thereby saving the time and labor necessary to prepare the ground and to plant and cultivate the additional acre. Yet many farmers are every year planting and cultivating 3 or 4 acres in every 20, for which they receive comparatively no returns

In making the tests it is essential that each ear tested should be given a number and all kernels taken therefrom given a corresponding number so that after the tests the faulty ears

may be thrown out. Many kinds of germinating boxes and methods for testing seed corn have been described in various publications, but the Department of Agriculture has designed a simple box which is be-lieved to combine most of the advantages, and give good results in the hands of almost any operator. The box would be about 11/2 or 2 inches deep



CAN NOT YOU GROW TWO EARS LIKE "E" TO EACH CORNHILL?

which all six kernels have germinated, reason why farm life should become these kernels might produce a good in the boundaries of ordinary civilizaready to be butted and tipped and adopt new methods in any line and shelled for planting. In order to insure further uniformity in planting it is advisable to sort the ears before OLDEN DAYS OF WHALING. planting into two or three grades, according to the size of the kernels. This grading may also be done by screening, if more convenient.

Remarkable Results of Government

Tests. The Department of Agriculture recently made tests of seed corn furnished by farmers in the corn producing States, and of the 3,322 ears tested, 1,906, or the startling percentage of more than one-half, were unfit for seed. These samples were taken from ears For use, first wet the cloth thorough-picked for seed by good, careful farly by soaking in water, and then place mers, and are evidently much above

A SIMPLE GERMINATING BOX. sons for this, the principal reason is terial, using two or three thicknesses probably carelessness in the use of of cloth in the bottom of the box and one or two thicknesses of cloth for covering the kernels after the frame has been filled. The cloth at the bottom should be marked off into squares 2 inches each way, and numbered, each one of which is to be filled with kernels from ears which are given a number corresponding to the square used.

A Very Simple Test. of corn per acre in the United States will not be materially increased.

If you shad in water and the wind above the half cloth, double thickness, which has been marked in squares, in the bot of the 1,906 poor ears was only 77.7

From "Farming."
A BUNCH OF FINE SEED.

POOR, SMUTTY SEED.

that shown as E in the cut. Eliminating, however, both ears D and E and granting that every farmer could harvest from each hill two such ears as on. When all of the squares have been arily have been used for planting, had the one shown as C, an ear which is filled, fold the other end of the cloth not these tests been made, was 86.3 less than 8½ inches long, and weighs carefully over the kernels. If during per cent., showing that 13.7 per cent. 12.6 ounces, the yield would be 80 the sampling the cloths have become bushels of shelled corn per acre. Are dry, sprinkle them well with water

which they represent should be taken schools and at home that manual to 97. for seed. There will also be cases in labor is not honorable. There is no but will be lacking in vigor. While monotonous to any one residing with ear of corn, the chances are that they tion. The rural mail carries the daily will never develop, or else will produce papers and magazines to the farm but a barren stalk. It is only necessary door yard; telephones place the farmer to remember that all ears showing dead kernels or weak and poorly devel-side world; railroads open the channels oped sprouts must be discarded and of trade to every commercial port; only those used for seed in which yet there is a life of monotony on every kernel tested has given a good many farms. The places are not imhealthy sprout. The ears which have proved, the owners follow the fashions shown a perfect germination are now of their forefathers, they do not

The days of the old-time whaling

fleets when more than two hundred full-rigged ships sailed out of New Bedford harbor on three and fouryear voyages to the most distant and dangerous seas, were over more than half a century ago. The right of Greenland whale of the Arctic waters with his mouth full of whalebone and his cousin, the sperm whale of tropical waters, bearing in its head the precious spermaceti, were practically exterminated by those all-daring, ironnerved, keen-eyed Yankee skippers.

Their splendid ships, the Annie B., the Mary Jane, the Blue-Eyed Susan great lovers of their wives and sweethearts, were this race of gentlemen adventurers-rotted at the wharves or were degraded to service as coastwise and with them vanished a world of romance and adventure. No men, in no time, more truly than they, "went

down to the sea in ships". But when the pennant of the last old-time whaling ship was hauled down forever, there still proudly swam the oceans the vast rorqual or racer whale, greatest of all his mighty kin. To the sailing fleet of the old days, the rorqual was an almost impossible prize because of its tremendous speed. was practically unmolested, and multiplied exceedingly in both North At-

lantic and Pacific waters. It was the abundance of this leviathan, measuring ninety feet in length and weighing almost as many tonspulking larger than a whole herd of elphants-which was the inspiration of ne modern whaling industry.

At least one American has succeeded in London journalism. Ralph D. Blumenfeld, late of Milwaukee, is the editor of the London Express

Artificial pumice stone is now made from a mixture of sand and clay.

About one billion feet of timber in the Black Hill forest reserve has been killed by the Black Hills beetle.

JOURNALISM IN CHINA.

Newspapers Increase Gulf Between Provinces.

United States Consul Anderson, at Amoy, has made a report on journalism among the Chinese. He says: "It is rather surprising, in view of comparatively small population of foreigners in China, how many large publications there are in foreign languages. The prices they obtain for their publications and their work probably explain the situation. Shanghai has five daily newspapers, three morning and two evening papers; one is French. It has six foreign weeklies, one German. It also has four Chinese dailies and a large

number of Chinese weeklies. "Practically all of the foreign papers sell for 41/2 cents gold per copy The subscription price is about \$15 gold per annum, postage extra. The Chinese dailies sell for about 1/2 cent gold per copy. In addition to these publications there are many religious papers, mostly in Chinese, published by the mission authorities.

"In the south Hong Kong domi-A full description of how to make nates the publication business, and tests is found in Farmers Bulletin No. as it is a British colony, English publi-253. by J. W. T. Duvel, which can be cations might reasonably be expected had from Members of Congress or the to lead, but on the face of the record the Chinese predominate. There are four English dailies, the Post, Press, both morning papers, and the Telegraph and the Mail, both evening Miss Edith Urmey, an Iowa hospital

"There are six Chinese dailies, and as in the case of Shanghai, there are mates of eastern insane asylums are a large number of publications de signed to fill various wants in South sons and daughters of the farmer China, a Portuguese weekly and the ploneers. They have been brought up Government Gazette being among to lives of idleness and luxury or suf- them. In nearly every port of imfered from monotony of country sur- portance in China there is an English roundings. In either case the direct publication of some sort.

"The publication houses, as a rule, cause for mental derangement is the both newspaper concerns and conlack of diversified work for body and cerns for general printing only, are fairly well equipped for their work. Some of them attempt work in the ary troubles and were happy. But line of high grade magazine and book publishing, and while it is not always an unmixed success from a technical typographical standpoint, it demonstrates that the Chinese workmen who do most of the work under for of physical and mental wrecks of eign supervision, will in time quire considerable merit in this line of effort.

sixth or seventh day, or until most of warn their sons and daughters of the "It is rather interesting to note that China at present seems to be the shoots or stems are from 1 to 1½ dangers that lie in their paths when inches long. This part of the testing leaving the farms, but often forget to passing through much the same process with its newspapers and other publications that many parts of the United States have passed through. All over the empire native newspapers are being started in the collo quial dialects, and are more or less local in character.

"It is unfortunate in many spects that the publication of newspapers in the several local dialects has developed so generally. such publications will afford means of educating the people of the empire in some lines, they also furnish the means for deepening the gulfs, dividing the several provinces which differ in dialects. Each newspaper center, if it performs its natural mission, will develope its own language in its own field to the exclusion of a language which might in time be ome common to all China.

BICYCLES ON THE WANE.

Over Three Times as Many Factories in 1900 as at Present.

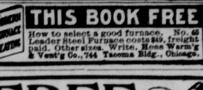
Statistics furnished by the Census Bureau at Washington show a marked decrease in the manufacture of bicycles. Since 1900 the business has fallen off 65 per cent., the number of establishments being reduced from 312

Formerly there were 2,034 salaried officials and employees of the factories where now there are only 360. The falling off in the number of wage earners was 81 per cent. The capital invested in 1900 was \$29,783,659, where-

as in 1905 it was \$5,847,803, The production in 1900 amounted to nearly 32,000,000 bicycles and was reduced in the five years to little over

In contrast with these figures, the motor cycle factories increased from 159 to 2.289

New Zealand exports annually \$65,-000,000 worth of kauri gum. It is used in the manufacture of varnish.





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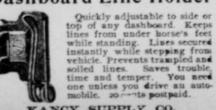
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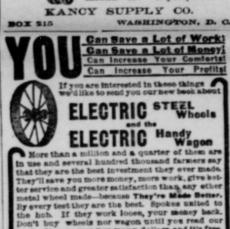


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