AGRICULTURE

Indiana Corn Growers Meet.

The Indiana Corn Growers' Association met at Indianapolis early in January.

A number of very interesting papers were presented and much of the time at the first session was devoted to the discussion of a score card, Indiana's exhibit at the world's fair and the raising of corn for feeding purposes. One of the most interesting talks was that by F. H. Rankin of the Illinois agricultural college. He insisted that the score card is of importance in that it calls attention to the essential points to be observed in the selection of seed corn. According to the Illinois score card a perfect ear should be 10 to 12 inches long and 7⅛ to 8 inches in circumference. The ear should yield 88 per cent of grain. It should taper but slightly and should be well filled at both ends, with straight rows and wedge-shaped grains. Corn growers should select seed ears of the same color, uniform in size, with grains as nearly of the same size as possible. Mixing should be avoided, and the best way for the farmer to improve his corn is by very careful selection.

Prof. A. T. Wiancko, in discussing the breeding of corn, stated that the experiment station at Purdue is now carrying on a number of breeding experiments in increasing the different constituents of corn. If a farmer wants to raise corn to sell to a starch factory, he should select seed in which there is an unusually large amount of starchy matter in the kernel. For feeding and fattening, corn should be selected with large hearts and a considerable percentage of protein.

Feeding cattle for the best markets was discussed by A. O. Lockridge. He advised selecting two-year-old steers, with special reference to their ability to produce high-priced cuts of meats. When preparing animals for export trade farmers should use whole corn which has been crushed or soaked, as this will be made use of freely by healthy animals. The ration of fattening cattle should be a varied one, to keep up the appetite and induce animals to eat large quantities. He does not believe in feeding silage largely to animals intended for export, but prefers plenty of bluegrass pastures. Fattening cattle should be dehorned with a saw and should be sold when they reach 1,400 pounds.

Prof. J. H. Skinner of Purdue university suggested that clover hay, bran and other protein feeds should be fed with corn, in order to make beef most economically. Great care should be taken in feeding young animals to supply the elements most essential to rapid growth.

At this corn growers' session farmers and stockmen were urged to attend the second corn school and stockmen's convention, held under the auspices of the Corn Growers' association at Purdue university, Jan. 25 to 30. The best authorities on corn growing in the middle west will be present and give instructions.

The following officers were elected: President, H. F. McMahan of Liberty; vice president, B. F. Maish of Frankfort; secretary, Scott Meiks of Shelbyville.

The Unbalanced Ration.

The fact should not be overlooked that there are cases where the balanced ration is not the most economical. This will be influenced by the relative market prices of feeds and the animals that are to be fed. For instance if corn is very cheap the feeder will not be justified in paying high prices for mill stuff to feed in very large quantities to fattening steers, unless it be for the finishing period. The carbohydrates that he would waste are too cheap in 15 cent corn to justify him in buying high priced protein to save them. But generally, feed containing enough protein at a reasonable price can be had on the farm at a price that will justify an approximate balanced ration in the majority of cases. Besides the loss of food nutrients, there are detrimental results caused by an unbalanced ration. Growing stock are stunted; dairy cows are dried up, in breeding stock the animal system is weakened, etc. For such cases as these the balanced ration will pay even if it is necessary to purchase such feeds as oil meal, etc., that are generally considered high priced.—F. C. Burtis.

Too Close Tree Planting.

We should make 32 to 35 feet the minimum distance apart in planting, and we will always get better results from 50 trees to an acre than from 75 to 100. Trees planted too close will not do well when they get to bearing age. The branches interlace and shut out the sunlight that should get in about them, and if you could see the roots, they are interlaced far worse than the branches. Then, it is impossible to spray such an orchard properly.—G. C. Caston.

How Trees Breathe.

Besides giving out oxygen in assimilation, trees also take in oxygen from the air through their leaves, and through the minute openings in the bark called lenticels, such as the oblong raised spots or marks on the young branches of birch and cherry and many other trees, says a student of tree life. All plants, like animals, breathe; and plants, like animals, breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbonic acid gas. This process of respiration or the breathing of the tree goes on both day and night, but it is far less active than assimilation, which takes place only in the light. Consequently more carbonic acid gas is taken into the tree than is given out, and the surplus carbon remains to be used in growing.

The greatest nations of Europe strain every effort to make science the handmaid of war. Let it be the glory of the American people to make science the handmaid of agriculture. —Jerry Rusk, ex-Secretary of Agriculture.

A woman will always boil over if her husband will refrain from getting hot when she begins to roast him.

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Isabella and Sable Fox Scarfs—regular price $13.50; sale price.....$7.50
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Russian Bear Scarfs—regular price $10; sale price.....$5 98
Russian Bear Scarfs—regular price $15; sale price.....$8 75
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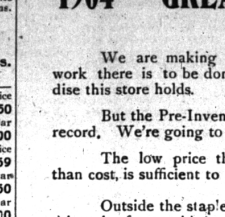

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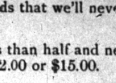

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