GUAM CORN.

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Corn (maize) is one of the principal food crops of the Island of Guam. It is not a native plant, but was introduced from Mexico nearly 250 years ago. During these two and a half centuries it has been grown by a people who do not practice, nor even understand, any method of improving corn. Guam corn is a variety which has been found to be well adapted to the tropical conditions existing in some of the Pacific Islands and particularly in Guam. Locally, it is known as native corn. Until recently, it received no attention in the way of improvement.

While no evidence can be brought forward to prove the claim, it is more than probable that the corn, by a process of evolution, has changed considerably from the original introductions, as almost certainly it has been kept largely free from mixtures. Recently, however, among certain of the natives a superstition has developed that a slight yellow mixture will keep away disease and insect pests. Many introductions of corn from the mainland of the United States and from over forty tropical countries have been made at various times since the American occupation of the island. None of these has proved to be so well adapted to tropical conditions nor to local environment as the Guam corn.

Only one type of corn is grown on the island, the present crop being estimated as approximately the 486th in the process of evolution. This assertion is based on careful study of the early history of the

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