EAR-TYPE SELECTION AND YIELD OF DENT CORN.¹

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The subject assigned the writer in this symposium was at one time of greater importance in the minds of agronomists and others than it is today. In the latter part of the nineteenth century a rather arbitrary a priori doctrine for ascertaining productive excellence of the seed ear was evolved from the mistaken line of reasoning that high shelling percentage and grain yield of the seed ear was synonymous with relatively high acre production. Thru 'associating this belief with the evolutionary teaching that like begets like, this ear-type perfection was to be preserved thru purity of breeding and selection for uniformity. Aside from the qualities denoting soundness of the grain, with its very obvious value, practically all of the points featured in the early score cards, devised as a guide for selecting seed ears, have their origin in the above reasoning.

These new teachings aroused great interest in corn and a number of station workers and practical corn growers planned experiments to

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