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TALL GROWS THE CORN

The 86 million U. S. acres which grew the 1949 corn crop are spotted here, there and almost everywhere in all the 48 states.

An accurate map, showing all corn areas in black, would present a mosaic pattern with the greatest areas of black concentrated, of course, in the corn belt. But if all those big and little black spaces were massed together you would have a solid cornfield of 134,275 square miles; slightly larger than the combined states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. This cornfield would have a maximum east-west distance of 583 miles. From north to south its longest row of corn would stretch 385 miles.

If it were possible to bring all the corn, harvested as shelled grain, from our big field to a single loading platform we'd tell the railroad we wanted a train of 1,934,246 box cars, each to take 1,825 bushels, to move this corn to the farms and industrial plants where it's needed.

The railroad might object, and not without reason, for a train that size would be sort of hard to handle, being 16,480 miles long. Going at 50 miles an hour, it would take 13 days and 18 hours to pass you if you were waiting at the Broadway crossing in Fargo for the gates to go up. You could break it up into six trains, if you wished—five long ones and one not so long. Each of the long ones would reach from New York to San Francisco; even the shorter one, if headed west with its engine in Des Moines, would have its caboose in New York City.

If we wanted to store all this corn we would need 17,572 grain elevators, each elevator 50 feet square and 100 feet high. A single storage elevator in the shape of a cube, capable of holding our corn grain harvest, would have to be 1,638 feet on a side and 1,638 high . . . If converted into an apartment house, it would give each man, woman and child in North Dakota an apartment considerably larger than the ordinary family dwelling house.—(JB)

1947 ISSUE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST

There are still available several copies of the September-October 1947 Bimonthly Bulletin of this station, which includes several papers of considerable current interest. C. C. Volkerding and T. E. Stoa, for example, discuss soil fertility and phosphate fertilizers in two papers in that issue. Eleanor McGuigan tells the vitamin C content of some North Dakota fruits and plant tissues. Chemical control of the wireworm is discussed by R. L. Post, J. A. Munro and R. B. Knapp, while other articles discuss flax rust, sheep and lamb care, farm wage rates, hatchery statistics. Write the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Fargo, if you wish a copy of this bulletin.