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1903

# Ratekins' Seed House

(J. R. RATEKIN & SON)

Growers and Dealers in ALL FIELD SEEDS,  SHENANDOAH, IOWA

Read this  
Catalogue  
Through and  
if you are in  
the market for  
Seed Wheat  
we can be of  
value to you



If you are not  
in the Market  
you may be  
benefitted  
and derive  
some informa-  
tion that will  
profit you

## 1903-WINTER SEED WHEAT CATALOG-1903



View of one of Ratekin & Son's wheat fields in the Nishna Valley at harvest time—forty-seven bushels per acre.



# RATEKINS' NEW "MALAKOFF" SEED WHEAT

Introducing the New "Malakoff" Imported Winter Seed Wheat, Grown in 1902, from Seed Imported from near the Black Sea, Crimea, in Russia, 1901.



This new, celebrated variety of winter wheat, "Malakoff," is now being introduced by us from the second crop ever before grown in this country, and from seed imported from Russia, by us in 1901. It is genuine and very pure stock, and is without doubt one of the hardiest varieties of wheat there is in existence, and will withstand the rigorous climates as far north as Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and from there south. This wheat shows a very compact, translucent grain, weighs 62 to 65 pounds per measured bushel, and was purchased from a reliable dealer near the Black Sea, who was recommended by the Imperial authorities at St. Petersburg as one likely to supply the true article desired. Our crop grown here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa, this season and last, indicates without question the heaviest yielding and best flour producing wheat known to mankind, and is noted for its great productiveness, hardiness, vigor and freedom from disease. This new wheat is far superior to any spring wheat ever grown, and yields from two to three times larger crops. It is now the leading crop grown in the great wheat growing districts of Russia, which is the greatest wheat producing country in the world, and wherever it is grown the great Milling Kings use it for their highest grade of patent flours.

The "Malakoff" comes more nearly resembling the "Turkish Red" wheat than any other variety, however, the heads are somewhat longer, larger and heavier, and the grain is a shade darker, a very rich

amber color. The straw is also larger and somewhat stiffer, and we claim for it that it is unequalled in hardiness, stooling qualities, productiveness, rust proof, strength of straw, quality of grain, quality of flour, equal to the world famed Hungarian product and the best in all respects of any wheat grown. Our crop here this season has verified everything claimed, and the crop product we are offering made a better yield than any other sort grown in this locality under similar conditions.

In order to obtain the full strength of the wheat plant, as well as other plants, we must go to the natural home of the plant; the natural source of supply and secure the best seed with all the original strong, vigorous qualities, thus we have been led to devote unusual attention to the culture and importation of improved varieties of seed wheat, as well as other seeds, and as a result our Farm Seed trade has become second to no other in this country.

Don't sow the old, worn-out varieties when you can add 50 to 100 per cent to your crop by sowing genuine, pure stock, imported seed, the crop of which will be worth hundreds of dollars to you to sell to your neighbors for seed next season. Everyone will be highly pleased with it who gives it a trial. Therefore we recommend it in the highest terms.

PRICE:—\$1.50 per bushel, 10 bushel or over \$1.40, bags free aboard cars here.



ALFALFA or Lucerne CLOVER.



Boyce City, Texas, July 10, 1902.

The season here has been very unfavorable, but the wheat I got from you last fall has done remarkably well, the yield being much better than any of our native sorts. I sowed some of the seed I got from you Nov. 20th and some of my native wheat at same time. The Turkish Red did well, but that sowed from my native wheat made nothing, thus proving it much better than ordinary sorts.

I. T. Calloway.



Pulaski County, Indiana.

I am well pleased with the Turkish Red seed wheat got from you last fall. The quality fine and yield fully ten bushels better per acre than other wheat.

Edgar Blaze.

Denton County, Texas.

I am well pleased with the results from the Turkish Red wheat I bought from you last fall, as the yield was more than twice as much as the best native sorts we have here.

W. L. Soms.



# RATEKINS' "TURKISH RED" WINTER WHEAT

TRIED AND TESTED.

Has Made an Unequaled Record.



The "Turkish Red" hard wheat, like all the hardy varieties, is a bearded wheat; is strictly iron clad, stiff straw and is absolutely free from rust, blight and other disease, and will stand more drouth, cold dry freezes and other unfavorable conditions, and not winter kill in the most bare and exposed places. It has very much the appearance of winter rye when it first comes up, and sends its roots down deep in the ground, and will give a good crop wherever winter rye will grow. It stools out the best of any variety known; heads are good size and a great many of them to each root. The grains are plump, handsome and quite hard; the hull is reasonably thin and it makes a most excellent grade of flour. There is no variety grown that has given as good and uniform satisfaction in every respect; that has produced as large crops and yields under ordinary conditions as has the "Turkish Red" during the past ten years. We sold thousands of bushels of seed all over the winter wheat growing districts last year, including quite a number of orders from Montana, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and New York and have now had reports from all of these states, and in no case have we a report where it failed, but it uniformly stood the winter well, coming out in the best of shape.

## READ THE STATE AGRICULTURAL REPORTS.

The Iowa Experimental Station, one of the best in the United

States, issued the following press bulletin for the information and benefit of the wheat growing farmers of Iowa, dated at Ames, Iowa, July 1, 1901. It says: "During the last ten years the Iowa Experimental Station has given considerable attention to the study and selection of varieties of winter wheat. The best results have been obtained from the "Turkish Red." The lowest yield during that time was 25 bushels, while the highest was 55 bushels per acre, the average yield for the time being 45 bushels per acre. The present crop, now within ten days of maturity, is fully up to the record. This wheat is wonderfully productive and very hardy, and it is thought by the station that the time has arrived when it should be distributed throughout the state in lots of from two to six bushels, and as it is the intention to introduce this variety and seed into every county in the state, the number of orders that can be filled will necessarily be limited."

At the Nebraska State Experiment Station in the fall of 1896 they sowed 37 varieties of winter wheat. It all winter killed except three; in 1898 over 100 varieties and only five varieties survived the winter in good condition. In 1899 they sowed 42 varieties. In all these tests the "Turkish Red" succeeded finely and is given first place on their list.

PRICE:—\$1.10 per bushel, 10 bushels or over \$1.00, bags free aboard cars here.

## WHAT SOME OF OUR CUSTOMERS SAY OF "TURKISH RED."

J. R. Ratekin & Son:—This is a country where we irrigate but usually have fall rains. I sowed the four bushels of Turkish Red I sent to you for, but rains were so late it only got up when the ground froze up. It, however, stood the winter well and my crop will make 30 bushels per acre. It was sowed broadcast, but if I had sown it in drills it would have made much more.

Yours truly,

E. C. Cook.

Buchanan County, Iowa.

I sowed the Turkish Red wheat on corn ground after corn was cut September 20th. It was very dry then and no snow during the winter, but it came through the winter well and is plenty thick. Will make something over 20 bushels per acre.

Respectfully

J. H. Manzel.

Daviess County, Missouri.

I bought 10 bushels of Turkish Red last fall but it did not sow all the piece of ground I had for wheat, so bought 3 bushels of another party to finish the piece. The Turkish Red did fine and made a fine crop, but the other froze out and had to plow it up. This is my experience.

Very respectfully,

J. W. Young.

McPherson County, Kansas.

I bought just two bushels of your Turkish Red last fall, sowed it on four acres of ground, one-half bushel per acre. This is an off year for wheat, but the crop from the wheat I got from you is the best I have seen in thousands of acres in Rice and McPherson counties. I shall sow all I have this coming fall. It's all right.

Yours truly,

D. P. Smyres.

Howard County, Missouri

I am pleased to say the Turkish Red seed wheat received from you last fall is all right. I sowed one-half bushel per acre and all came up nicely, but feed was scarce and I was compelled to pasture it all winter and did not take the stock off it until the 28th of April, six weeks before cutting time, but it was thick and heavy on the ground, twice as thick as another variety that I sowed a bushel per acre. I have not threshed it yet, but am confident that my 20 acres of Turkish Red will give a yield of 45 to 50 bushels per acre. It's all right.

Respect,

W. C. Baskett.

I sowed Turkish Red side by side with Fulcaster, the Turkish Red yielding more than twice as much as Fulcaster.

Yours truly,

Walker Brothers.

Boise City, Idaho, July 14, 1902.

Mason County, Illinois.

I am well pleased with the Turkish Red I bought from you; sowed one bushel per acre, got 30 bushels per acre. It is the greatest stooler I have ever found; was thicker and gave much better yield than other sorts made 1/2 more per acre. It is much hardier than anything I have tried.

Truly yours,

H. S. Niekirk.

Cedar County, Nebraska.

I am pleased to say the Turkish Red seed wheat I bought from you last fall has proven a great success for me this year. I am going to sow 25 acres of it this year. Inclosed find 50c for three pounds of your imported "Malikoff" wheat, by mail. Truly yours,

Carl Anderson.

Vinland, Texas.



# RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE, SHENANDOAH, IOWA

GROWERS, IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN

## FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN SEEDS OF EVERY KIND AND SORT.

When in want of Seed Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley, Rye, Buckwheat, Clover, Alfalfa, Timothy, Rape, Millet, in fact any Farm Seeds of any kind or sort, we will be pleased to receive your kind inquiries and orders which will have our prompt personal attention.

### IMPROVED VARIETIES OF SEED CORN.

We have made the growing and handling of improved varieties of Seed, Field and Sweet Corn a leading specialty for the past twenty years, during which time we have grown, sold and sent out more seed than any other growers, and more than all the Garden Seed Houses in the United States Combined.

### TO THE AMERICAN FARMER AND WHEAT GROWER.

It is our intention and purpose to offer to the American farmer and wheat grower only such varieties of seed wheats as will be found to give the surest, most reliable and profitable results, and such as are best suited to a wide range of conditions, including climate and soil.

While there are thousands of acres of some varieties that winter kill from excessive freezing, cold and drouth, crinkle of the ground, rust and scab until they are not worth harvesting, there are kinds that can yet be grown almost anywhere that winter wheat is grown with satisfactory and highly profitable results. This we claim, especially for our imported "Malakoff" and "Turkish Red" wheat. In order to

make the closest, latest and best possible investigation and comparison with our "Turkish Red," we have, during the past six weeks, wrote and sent out more than one thousand personal letters to our customers of last year, practically every one of whom we have replies from, with regard to their experience and a comparison with other leading sorts grown in their several localities, and almost everywhere we find our "Turkish Red" stands first and at the head of other varieties where grown on good wheat land. We, however, find the "William Amber" better suited to clay or clayish soil in Missouri, southern Illinois, and the South where soft and smooth headed varieties are grown and to which soil it is especially well adapted.

### CHANGE YOUR SEED WHEAT.

It has become a practical and well known fact to every intelligent and progressive farmer, verified by every experimental station in the United States, that seed wheat grown year after year under the same conditions, on same ground, in same climate, after a time deteriorates, declines and runs out. One of the surest methods of counteracting deterioration is by repeated importations of seed from the regions whose natural conditions produce the characteristics desired. This is why we frequently import seed wheat from India, Russia, and Turkey.

The farmer that this circular reaches who intends to sow a few acres of wheat, cannot afford to sow the old wheat from the bin that

has been sown on the same ground in same locality for years. Change your seed. Increase your yield as well as the quality of your wheat.

Remember new and profitable varieties of seed wheat cannot be imported, tried, tested and introduced at a price but little or nothing above common elevator prices. In addition to this, wheat is not fit for seed unless it has been thoroughly re-cleaned and graded at least twice after it comes from the machine, as all our seed is.

Let us hear from you with an order for the amount of wheat you wish to sow and you will find it will be the best investment you can make for seed wheat. Do not delay but order early and then you will have the seed when you are ready for it.

### READ CAREFULLY.

Our terms are strictly cash. Money should accompany all orders to receive attention.

Send all remittances by P. O. Money Order, Express Order, Registered Letter or Bank Draft.

We deliver in good order, all seeds free aboard cars here. C. B.

& Q. R. R., Wabash R. R. or Keokuk & Western R. R. Low rates and quick shipments.

Freight and Express charges in all cases to be paid by purchaser.

Be sure and order early, giving plain directions for shipping; also name of railroad you live on as well as county and state, and if Post-office is different say so.

### TERMS AND PRICES.

**Our Terms are Strictly Cash With Order.** We do not send C. O. D., as cost and inconvenience to you for collection and return charges is an unnecessary item of expense, besides it would require too much time and help and cause delay shipment while we obtained the standing of those who order that way. As to our responsibility see references elsewhere.

**Rush Orders.** If time is limited and you want to order seed of any kind by telegraph, go to your banker, express agent or postmaster and put up the money and have them wire us what you wish, and you may

feel assured that your order will have immediate attention and seed will start by first train. We know how to move without a derrick and are in a position to give you prompt and active service.

**Be Sure to Give the Name of your Freight Station,** also name or names of railroads.

**Freight Rates and Charges.** We advise our customers to order early and have their seed sent by freight always, as it costs four times as much by express as by freight. We have excellent railroad shipping facilities.

Freight Rates on Seed in Bags, per 100 lbs., at this Date from Shenandoah, Iowa.

|                       |           |      |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|
| Atchison, Kansas      | . . . . . | .22c |
| Atlanta, Georgia      | . . . . . | .94c |
| Buffalo, New York     | . . . . . | .47c |
| Chicago, Illinois     | . . . . . | .32c |
| Detroit, Michigan     | . . . . . | .45c |
| Indianapolis, Indiana | . . . . . | .41c |
| Kansas City, Missouri | . . . . . | .20c |
| Lincoln, Nebraska     | . . . . . | .24c |
| Louisville, Kentucky  | . . . . . | .42c |
| Peoria, Illinois      | . . . . . | .29c |
| Quincy, Illinois      | . . . . . | .27c |
| Springfield, Illinois | . . . . . | .40c |
| St. Louis, Missouri   | . . . . . | .27c |
| Terra Haute, Indiana  | . . . . . | .39c |
| Topeka, Kansas        | . . . . . | .32c |



Medium Red CLOVER.

# PRICE LIST


## SEED WHEAT

These Prices Include Sacks Free on Board Cars Here.

"Malakoff"—imported stock, bu 1.50 <sup>10</sup> bus. 1.40

"Turkish Red," bu . . . . . 1.10 <sup>10</sup> bus. 1.00

"Mammoth White" Rye, bu . . . . . 90 <sup>10</sup> bus. 80c

Ask for prices on Timothy, Clover and all other Farm Seeds. 



# Ratekins' Iowa Grown Seed Corn

Is Worth Millions to the Corn Growing Farmer

Established 1884.

Twentieth Year

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Ia.



The Largest Seed House of its Kind in America.

## SELECTED FARM SEEDS

We place Farm Seeds first, because in good and reliable seeds lies the whole foundation of the crop as well as the success and welfare of the farmer; the largest and most important interest of an agricultural country; for on the seeds you plant depends the results and prosperity of the farmer who plants them, especially when intelligent thought and experience are combined and well directed. We come to this subject first for the further reason that we are especially strong in this line of seeds. We have had many years—almost a lifetime—of practical, not theoretical, experience on the farm, but never an hour to dispense information to the practical farmer who does the plowing and planting that we did not possess. Yes, we have been up against "the real thing itself" almost fifty years of our best lifetime—meantime with twenty years' in the Seed trade, and we have always felt that the nearer we could keep to the practical, intelligent and experienced farmer the more valuable information we could gain. Thus we feel that we are in position to know, absolutely, regarding suitability and adaptability of seeds to certain localities, and can serve you better than any other Seed House to be found in the country; therefore, we give Farm Seeds a pre-eminence in our Seed Catalog over all else. We regret to say that there are many ("would-be seedmen") Seed Houses who have but a vague knowledge and no practical experience in Seeds and Crops, and in making up their descriptive catalogs are guided only by those who have had more experience than themselves. But feeling thus equipped as we are, we fully realize the vast importance and value to the farmer (the man on the other side of the fence), connected with this particular branch of our business, we beg to say that we devote a large share of our personal and careful attention to the selection of the very best varieties and the very best seeds that grow, as well as to the planting, growth, cultivation, harvesting and handling, all the way through until sacked or packed for sending out. By reason of the satisfactory results obtained, and pleasant intercourse with our patrons and customers, we feel proud to have the honor to say that we have hundreds of customers' names on our books who have been sending to us from ten to twenty years, each year, for their Farm Seeds; to say the least, we are pleased to know that the people generally, as a rule, are not indifferent to kind, honorable and fair treatment, and we always take pleasure and pains to see to it that no customer leaves us dissatisfied. We believe it pays from a business standpoint, for on this basis we feel justified in claiming that we have built up a trade during the last twenty years second to no other Seed House in the State of Iowa or in the West.

**PRICES** named in this department are subject to important market changes. Quotations are not, and are not subject to premium or discount which is offered on other seeds. Clover and Grass Seeds are constantly varying in value. Please write for quotations, sending list of requirements, when in need. Orders sent us will be given benefit of lowest prices on day order is received. Will take pleasure in mailing samples and quoting inside prices at any time on large orders.

**SHIPPING**—In this department everything that is quoted by the packet or pound is sent by mail postpaid; all large quantities, unless noted, are sent by express or freight at the expense of the purchaser. Prices named include bags, except on Clover and Grass Seeds, and delivering to depot here.



### Garden Seeds By Mail.

**How to Order**—Use the order blank and envelope sent with the catalog, when possible; write plainly; keep a copy of your order; be sure and sign your name postoffice, county and state every time you write us, and above all, the name of your freight station, also railroads.

**Order Early**—It would be a great accommodation to us if more of our customers would order their seeds as soon as they receive our catalog, as we could always give your orders more of our personal attention. If, however, you should postpone ordering even until the seeds are actually needed, you can rely upon getting them promptly.

**Shipping Facilities**—We are located on the C. B. & Q. Ry., the Omaha & St. Louis Line of the Wabash railway and the Keokuk & Western Railroad, Shenandoah being the terminus of the latter, so that quick shipments can be made to any town in the United States. It is well to remember that express charges are usually very much higher on heavy goods, therefore you should order them sent by fast freight.

**We Send Shipping Receipts.** We also take special pains to keep shipment moving to their destination, and if not received within reasonable length of time please notify us and we will send a tracer after the delayed shipment.

**Terms**—Our terms are strictly cash with order. We do not send C. O. D., as the cost of collecting return charges are quite an unnecessary item of expense, and, prices being given, we can conceive of no necessity to warrant goods being so sent.

**How to Send Money**—Remittances may be made at our risk by any of the following methods, viz: Postoffice money order, bank draft, express money-order, registered letter, and in sums of \$1.00 or less in postage stamps. The rates for postoffice money order or express orders are very low and these are the most convenient modes for sending money, consequently the most convenient for most of our customers.

**Prepaid Railroad Stations.** Many of our farmer customers live at prepaid railroad stations where there are no agents; in such cases we ship the goods to the nearest station to the prepaid station, as we never pay freight charges on heavy seeds unless charges are advanced.

**Our Reliability**—As this will probably go into the hands of many who are unacquainted with us, this question will naturally arise, and in answer to same we refer you by permission to the First National Bank of this city, to the Postmaster, Mayor, agent Adams Express Co., Dun or Bradstreet's agencies.

**We Pay the Postage** on all seeds by the packet, ounce, and pound, but if BEANS, PEAS OR SWEET CORN by the pint or quart are desired by mail, 10c per pint and 15c per quart additional must be sent to pay postage. All heavy seeds, such as Seed Corn or Seed Potatoes, and Implements, etc., except as noted in catalog, must be sent by freight or express at customer's expense.

**Be Free to Write us** for any information pertaining to our business not found in catalog. Use a separate sheet of paper from your order, as your letter goes to the general office and your order to the mail-order department. Always be free to write. We always like to hear from our friends and customers.

**Rush Orders**—If time is limited and you wish to order seed of any kind over the telephone or telegraph, go to your banker or postmaster, put up the money and have them wire or telegraph us what you want and we assure you that it will have our prompt attention and be shipped on first train possible.

**Guarantee**—Complaints made that seeds are not good should quite as often be attributed to other causes as to the quality of seeds. There are hundreds of contingencies continually arising to prevent the best seeds always giving satisfaction, such as sowing too deep or shallow; in too wet or too dry soil; insects of all kinds destroying the plants as soon or before

they appear; wet weather, cold weather, frosts, chemical changes in the seeds induced by temperature, etc. For the above reasons it is impracticable to guarantee seeds under all circumstances; therefore we give no warranty, express or implied, as to description, quality, productiveness or any other matter of any seeds we send out, and we will not be in any way responsible for the crop. If the purchaser does not accept the goods on these terms they must be returned at once.

Market gardeners and others who buy beans, peas, sugar corn or seeds in bulk, make out your list and send to us and we will make you our lowest wholesale prices; club orders of same kind we make the same low prices. We guarantee that all our seeds shall reach our customers in good condition.

**Our Packet Seeds** are full size and contain the best and freshest seeds and are not to be compared with the half-size or poorly filled packets which are so largely offered through the country and by cheap advertisements. If you want quality and quantity, and splendid vegetables, always order Ratekin's Reliable Seeds. Remember we pay the postage on all seeds by packet, ounce, and quarter-pound rates.

## Seed Corn

Our senior member has had fifty years' practical experience on the farm as a corn grower in one of the best corn-growing districts under the shining sun, twenty years of which time we have made the growing and breeding of seed corn a specialty. During this time we have doubtless grown, sold and sent out more seed corn than any other grower, seed-house or seed firm in the world and more than all the catalog garden and seed houses combined. This means that J. R. Ratekin & Son (Ratekin Seed House) may well be considered the "Great Supply House of the United States for Choice Thoroughbred Seed Corn." In fact, we ship seed corn each year to every state and territory in the United States, besides to every country where corn is grown. We are located on the "great" Nishnabotna Valley of Southwestern Iowa, which is the center of the best corn-growing district in the world, and which has become so famous throughout the United States for the wonderful corn it grows. The climate, soil and location here all unite and contribute to the most perfect growth and maturity of the finest quality and grade of Seed Corn that can be produced on earth. This, Page county, with an area of 22x24 miles square, has the unprecedented record of producing Six and a Half Million Bushels of Corn in One Year, which equals the combined corn product of the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, and more than any one of ten other states produced the same year. Thus located as we are, at the very fountain and best natural home of corn, and with our experience on the farm and in the field, as well as our extended experience in handling and shipping seed to all parts of the country, has brought us fully to appreciate the great importance of Good Seed and Good Varieties of Corn. We have given particular attention and our best thought to this department of our business and have made the selection and improvement of Seed Corn a specialty, always exercising great care to secure the best varieties that have proven the most suitably adapted to a wide range of conditions and especial localities for which we recommend them. Our recommendations are not based on our long experience but on the experience of thousands of our customers, made up of the most practical, progressive, and best farmers who have repeatedly tried and tested our seed corn all over the country, from Minnesota and North Dakota to the Gulf, and from Maine to California.

In regard to our Seed Corn, permit us to say that all of it is grown by us here in this vicinity, under special contract and under our special supervision, we furnishing the seed stock, all of which is grown by us under the most scientific methods known for growing and improving pure bred Seed Corn. We had crops this season aggregating more than six thousand acres of corn that we have grown especially for seed purposes. Notwithstanding the unusual and unprecedented conditions that prevailed in many portions throughout the country the past season, we can conscientiously say, without fear of contradiction, that for the season of 1904 we have the Best Supply of Seed Corn ever before offered by any grower, seed house or seed firm in the world. We have built and added, doubling our room, during the past summer, to our already well equipped plant, and our facilities are now better than ever before for handling, drying, storing, sorting, separating, cleaning, and grading, and are not equalled or excelled by any other Seed-House in the world. Choice Seed Corn is scarce this year and prices are a trifle higher, yet the first cost of Seed Corn of choice variety is nominally nothing, as compared with the good results to be obtained, even though the seed costs five dollars per bushel. Especially is this so since one bushel of seed will plant from six to eight acres, and ought, under reasonably fair to good conditions, produce from four to seven hundred bushels of corn. An increased yield of one bushel per acre will always pay for the seed required to plant the crop, and thousands of farmers have written us every year that they have doubled their crops from our seed and have obtained from 10 to 40 bushels better yield per acre than from common ordinary varieties. Thus it always pays to plant the best, and it does not require a mathematician to figure out the cost or profit.

### Special Prepaid Rates To Our Customers:

(Read Carefully.)

We have a special prepaid express rate with ALL express companies, whereby IF express packages of Seeds, Bulbs, Fruit Trees and Shrubs are PREPAID here BY US, they will go at the rate of two ounces per 1 cent; no package, however, for less than 15c. Thus 1 1/2 lbs. will go for 15c; 2 lbs. for 16c.; 2 lbs. and 2 oz. for 17c.; 2 lbs. and 4 oz. for 18c.; 2 lbs. and 6 oz. for 19c., etc., etc. (4 1/2 lbs. 35c.)

In addition to this ounce rate we also have a special pound rate whereby 5 to 15 lbs. can be sent to any Adams, Southern or Pacific express office in the United States for about 35c, which is lowest minimum charge on small shipment where PREPAID in advance. The same rate will hold good where there are TWO OR MORE express offices of any OTHER company located at your place. Other or larger packages or shipments will be charged the regular seed or nursery rate, which is 20 PER CENT. less than on regular merchandise, and same charges only will be collected at end of route as if prepaid here. But on all small packages or shipments, on which purchaser is required to pay transportation charges, we would Advise That You Always Send Money Enough or more than plenty, to Prepay Express Charges, and if Any Left, Even One Cent or One Dollar, or any other amount, it will be returned to you after charges are paid, and in all cases a Statement and Receipt will be Sent to You, with Full Statement.

Respectfully,  
RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE.

## Ratekins' Price of Nishna



### The Corn That Made Iowa Famous

"RATEKINS' PRIDE OF NISHNA" is not a newly discovered variety of corn that has recently been discovered buried under the rough sands of the sea for a thousand years or more, as is claimed for some of the so-called new sorts and novelties, but it was originated by us here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa some twenty years or more ago, in one of the richest and finest corn-growing districts in existence; in the largest corn-producing country in the world; in the biggest corn-growing state in the union; in the state that has grown a net balance of 370,000,000 Bushels Over Any Other State in the Union during the period of the last past eleven years.

"RATEKINS' PRIDE OF NISHNA" Yellow Dent Corn is one of the most wonderful varieties of corn this country has ever produced, and it has never been known to fail in making a good crop wherever corn is grown. It has been grown over as wide a range of latitude, perhaps, as any other variety in existence, always and everywhere with remarkable yields and good results.

This marvelous variety of corn combines more solid merit and vital points than any other corn in cultivation or in existence, and in all our experience with other varieties we have never found another variety of yellow corn adapted to all the varying conditions over a wide range of latitude as our "Pride of Nishna." Its greatest merit lies in always producing the largest yield of the soundest and best corn that can be produced anywhere in 90 to 100 days. Expert Corn Growers Pronounce it "A Perfect All-Around Corn for Feeding and for Market, for Size, for Yield, and for Quality of Corn."

This corn is the result of hybridization of two remarkable fine varieties of corn made twenty years ago, since which time, by careful selection and improvement, its type and characteristics have been fixed and developed to the highest degree of excellence, thus in every way making it the superior of any yellow corn grown or in cultivation.

### Description

Stalk is strong and vigorous, with dark, heavy foliage, with a deep, heavy root, and is of great vitality, withstanding drought and other unfavorable conditions to a wonderful degree. One of the most marked characteristics of this corn, developed from careful breeding and selection, is that it is free from any barren stalks and that every stalk bears at least one good-sized, well-developed ear and many of them two, thereby materially increasing the yield from 30 to 50 per cent over ordinary common varieties. The ears are very uniform in size and appearance, also in color, which is a beautiful golden yellow; ears measure almost seven inches in circumference, and range from nine to eleven inches in length, many of them running a foot long, with from 16 to 24 rows of deep, rugged grains solidly set on medium small cob. This corn is undoubtedly the earliest medium-large-eared corn in existence, and will mature safely beyond danger from frost in from 90 to 100 days from planting time. Since the origin of this corn our supreme and paramount purpose has been to produce a fixed type of large-eared early that would produce and mature the largest yield of good sound corn in the shortest length of time, and in this we feel proud to congratulate ourselves and our thousands of customers; for we have received more than ten thousand unsolicited letters from farmers who have bought and planted our seed all over the country wherever corn is grown, during the last ten years, all uniformly extolling it as the largest yielder; the earliest to mature; the uniformity of the ear; its vitality to withstand drought and other unfavorable conditions, and in fact being the best all-around yellow dent corn in existence. It is like a vigorous young horse—full of blood, strong and vigorous, bred for a certain purpose.

The half-tone cut on this page was made from a photograph and is a reproduction, exact, from a basket of select ears of this corn, none of which measured less than twelve inches long and some even more.

If you want a golden yellow corn for feeding purposes, it is the corn to plant; it's the best cattle corn in the world, superior in strength and flesh-producing qualities to any other sort, and we hope every farmer in the land that plants corn will try at least a part of his crop to "Pride of Nishna." We cannot too highly recommend it, and can assure all that it will not disappoint your best expectations. PRICE—Packet, 5c; sample ears, 25c; pound, 20c; 3 pounds, 60c; 7 pounds (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express: peck, 40c; half bushel, 75c; bushel, \$1.35; two bushels and over, \$1.30; ten bushels and over, \$1.25 per bushel. Sacks included.

### ONE THING TO REMEMBER.

When you buy Northern Grown Seed Corn, be sure it was grown as far north as the best and largest varieties can be successfully grown. Remember that one bushel of Ratekin's Iowa grown seed is often worth fifty dollars more per bushel in results of the crop than Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri Seed Corn. What the farmer most wants everywhere is corn that will grow big ears and lots of bushels and at the same time mature a month earlier than ordinary sorts, thus escaping early frost, early drought, hot winds and other unfavorable conditions. Don't be fooled with that "just as good as Ratekin's Iowa Grown, Pure Bred Seed Corn."

Remember, that every sack and bag of our Seed Corn is put up in bags made especially for us, and that EACH ONE BEARS THE NAME AND BRAND OF "RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE, SHENANDOAH, IOWA," and that behind it is our GUARANTEE AND TWENTY years' reputation as the largest Seed Corn Growers in the World. If your local dealer does not handle our seed, send your order direct to us and we will ship you seed the same day order is received. Always address here—(we have no Seed House elsewhere,) and your orders and inquiries will always have our prompt and immediate attention. "Prompt and quick service insures good customers," of which we know the value.

RATEKINS' SEED HOUSE,  
Shenandoah, Iowa.



### A Book on Corn-Growing

During our many years experience in the seed trade we have had constant inquiry for a good practical book or publication on corn and corn-growing, as well as on the planting, growing and culture of other cereal, grass and farm crops. Thus fully realizing the need and value to the farmer of such a book, the senior member of our firm, Mr. J. R. Ratekin, has, after much research, prepared and compiled a book on corn-growing, and which also covers every phase of the growing and culture of all farm crops, including Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, Speltz, Alfalfa, Clovers, Bromus Inermis, Rape, Millet, and other grasses; in short, everything grown on the farm.

This valuable and useful book is well printed and nicely bound, and contains 100 pages 6x9, and will be mailed to any address, postpaid, in the United States, for 50 cents. (Clean stamps accepted.)

Address,  
**Ratekins' Seed House,**  
**Shenandoah,**  
**Iowa.**

# IOWA SILVER MINE WHITE CORN

103 1-3 Bushels Per Acre.

Lewis, Cass Co., Iowa, Feb. 1, '03.

Gentlemen:—I am just in receipt of your 1903 catalog and have looked over your deductions with regard to Seed Corn and Corn Growing, and think them perfect. We planted 15 acres to your "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine" last season, on clover sod, fall plowed, and have just completed gathering it. It made the largest yield that I have ever obtained in all my years of experience in corn growing. On five acres which we measured and weighed the yield was **ONE HUNDRED AND THREE AND ONE-HALF BUSHELS PER ACRE** and the remainder of the field was equally as good. The corn measured was "Pride of Nishna," yellow, but the whole field was the finest piece of corn I ever saw. My health is comfortably good for one of my age and one who has suffered intensely for most of the time during the last two years. I am, however, still able, almost at my 84th birthday, to look after my affairs, with good help to carry out details. With kind regards, I am,  
Very truly,  
Oliver Mills.



## The Best White Corn In The World

"RATEKINS' IOWA SILVER MINE" white corn is unquestionably the most marvelous variety of corn ever grown or in existence and will happily surprise the best expectations of all who plant or grow it. This corn was first introduced in 1894, ten years ago, and in that length of time it has almost revolutionized the corn growing of this state, besides it has been grown with equally good results in every part of the United States where corn is grown, and has likewise been crowned the queen of all varieties of white corn wherever tried or tested, it having been proven to be suited to a larger range of climate, soil and other conditions than any white corn in existence. The record it has made and results obtained under all conditions of weather have never been equalled by any other white corn.

Seed Corn growing has been our main and leading specialty for twenty years, and during all that time we have never found any variety of white corn that has given such uniform good yields and results year after year, regardless of place or locality, as this corn has given.

**DESCRIPTION**—Stalk grows to a height of about seven or eight feet, and sets the ears about three and one-half to four feet from the ground, just the right height for easy picking. One peculiarity we noticed in going over the field was that there was no barren stalks; every one had an ear, many stalks had two good ears, and the originator says that has been characteristic every year that he has grown it. The type is very even. Ears measuring from Ten to Twelve Inches in Length and weighing one and one-half pounds are often found. The ears are very uniform in size and shape, with sixteen to twenty straight rows (usually eighteen rows), of deep, pure white kernels set on a small white cob, and the ears are well filled over the tip. It is early, maturing in less than ninety-five days, and never has been caught by the frost. The cob dries out rapidly, so that it is ready for market earlier than any other White Field Corn in existence. In its yield it will surpass all other varieties of White Corn. Seventy pounds in the ear will make sixty-two pounds shelled. It is adapted to a wider range of soil and climate than any corn ever offered. From Minnesota to Florida, from Massachusetts to California, it will yield a paying crop where other varieties are grown at a loss. It is in every way a distinct type of corn and possesses many of the features which have made "Pride of Nishna" so popular. It is hardy and a wonderful resister of drouth.

**PRICE**—Pound, 25c; three pounds, 60c; 7 pounds (will plant an acre), \$1.00; sample ears, 25c, postpaid to any postoffice in the United States. By express or freight, purchaser's expense; peck, 40c; half bushel, 75c; bushel, \$1.35; 2 bushels or more, \$1.30; 10 bushels or more, \$1.25. Sacks included on board cars here.

Saunders Co., Neb., Feb. 1, '03.

Gentlemen:—The **Eleven Bushels** of "Ratekins' **Pride of Nishna**" bought from you was too thick, but made a splendid crop. It grew almost to a grain, and my corn in every load could be found hundreds of ears a foot long. Inclosed find Kodak photo of a few ears, which are only a fair sample of much of it. Shall want some seed this season and will send in my order later.

Very truly,  
Jerome Barnell.

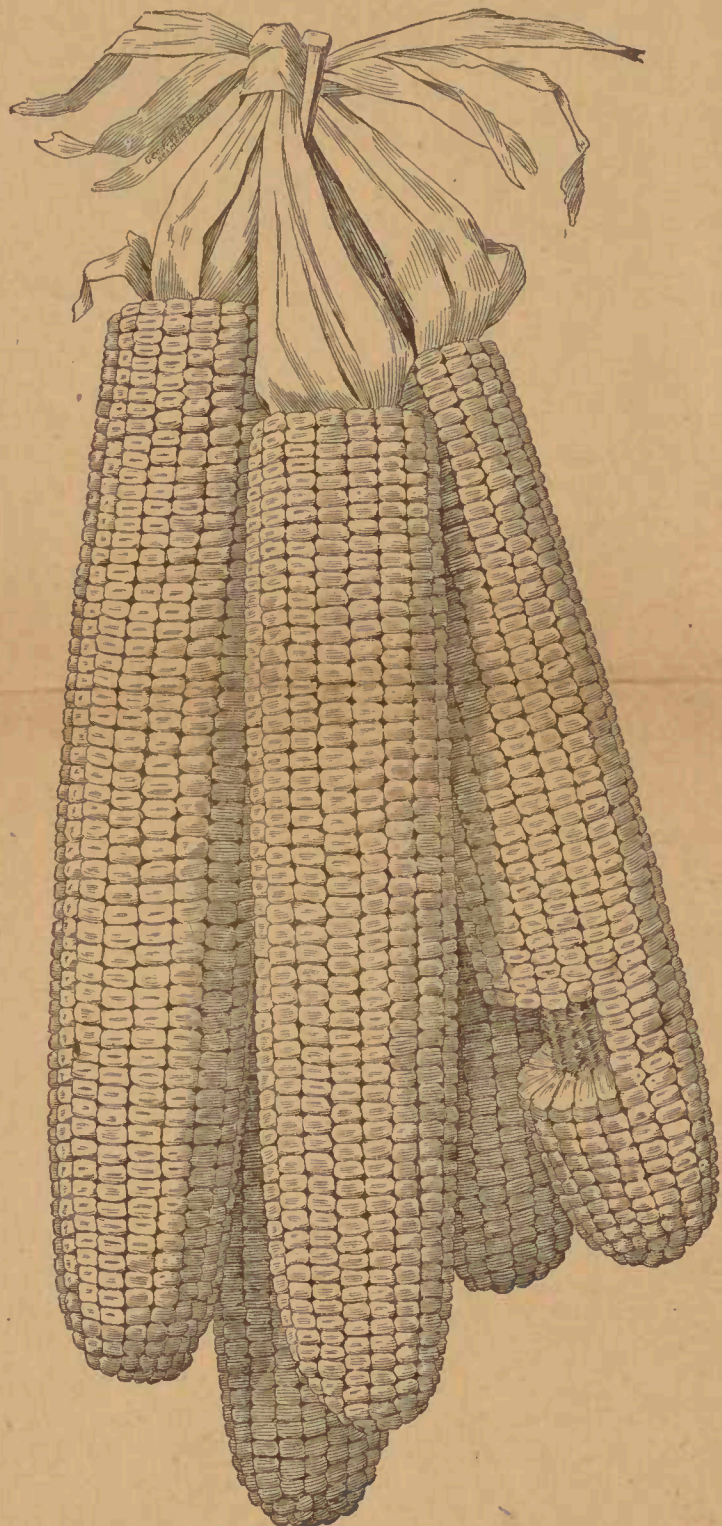
Five ears Ratekins' Iowa Silver Mine, husked from one hill of three stalks, averaging over eleven inches long.

### Ratekins' Iowa Silver Mine

Stands drouth better than any variety in existence, and will do better on poor or thin land, and other unfavorable conditions, than any variety of Corn in the World.

### Its Prize Record.

Everywhere the "Iowa Silver Mine" captures the prizes over all other varieties. At one fair ten of the largest ears took first prize, ten of the smaller took second prize. Afterwards the same ten ears took sweepstakes over all other varieties, both white and yellow, making a total of **\$90.00 taken at one fair by twenty ears** of the "Iowa Silver Mine" Corn. At Illinois State Fair it took first premium for the best bushel of corn, any color or sort; first for best white corn in the state, and **Grand Sweepstakes for the Best Corn**, of any color, competition open to the world. In 1899 the Illinois State Agricultural Society offered three large prizes for the largest corn crop grown on an acre, and the "Iowa Silver Mine" captured all three of them with crops of 196, 176 and 154 **Bushels per Acre**. No other corn of any color can compare with it in wonderful productiveness.



### "Ratekins' Imperial

### A Great Favorite Wherever Tried and Tested

This excellent and superior variety of corn has been grown here in the Nishna Valley of Southwestern Iowa for the past ten or twelve years with good results and uniform large yields. It was first introduced here from Illinois by an old German farmer, and on account of its many valuable and meritorious qualities, including its uniform big yields and its vitality to resist drouth and other unfavorable conditions, it soon became a favorite with many of our largest farmers and best corn-growers. By reason of this and a ter seeing it growing we have for the past five years been experimenting with it by sending out small quantities all over the country gratuitous, to our customers who ordered seeds from us. This in order to thoroughly test the adaptability over a wide range of territory under all varying conditions including climate, soil, and other things incident to our wide trade. There are many varieties of corn well suited to one locality that may be of little or no value in another place, but on the face of our observation we were so favorably impressed with this corn that we felt impelled to make a thorough trial and test of it in this way, and our judgment of it has now been proven correct, and in 1902, for the first time, catalogued it along with our other improved varieties, and especially all over the southern states, and we are pleased to say and to know that all reports from those who planted and grew crops from it are remarkably well pleased and shows a marvelous record as one of the hardiest varieties, surest croppers and best yielders that we have ever sent out.

#### DESCRIPTION.

It is a pure white corn with red cob; a sign in itself of great vitality; ears measure from seven to eight inches in circumference and nine to twelve inches in length; sixteen to twenty-four rows solidly set on a medium small cob, not unusually hard but solid and compact, and will weigh out from three to four bushels more of shelled corn to the wagon load than ordinary varieties. Stalks strong and rugged and grow from seven to ten feet and sets ears about three and a half feet from the ground, and matures safely and soundly in ninety to one hundred days good corn weather from the time of planting.

It is a corn every farmer can plant with assurance always of a good corn crop of the best grade and quality that is grown. It is especially well adapted to thin and old ground but will respond to good land and good cultivation second to no other variety in existence. Owing to the increasing demand for white corn, not alone in the United States but throughout all the world where corn is rapidly being introduced for its multiplicity of uses for food, white corn is destined to command, as it now does, a premium of two to five cents per bushel over yellow corn. Cereal mills the world over want white corn; to have it and to get it the farmers must plant and grow it. Only a few years ago we were selling six bushels of yellow seed corn where we were selling but one of white. Now we are selling more white corn than we are yellow. Why is it? Because farmers have learned during the past few years that white corn not only commands a better price than yellow corn but withstands drouth and other unfavorable conditions much better than yellow varieties. We cannot too strongly urge all of our customers who order seed corn from us this season to include in their order a few bushels of our "Imperial White." It is a sure cropper, big yielder, early to mature and an all-around field corn that you can always depend upon.

**Price:** Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c; 7 pounds (will plant one acre), \$1.00. Sample ears, 25c, prepaid to any postoffice in the United States. By express or freight, purchaser's expense. Peck, 40c; 1-2 bushel, 75c; 1 bushel, \$1.35; 2 bushels or more, \$1.30; 10 bushels or more, \$1.25. Sacks included.

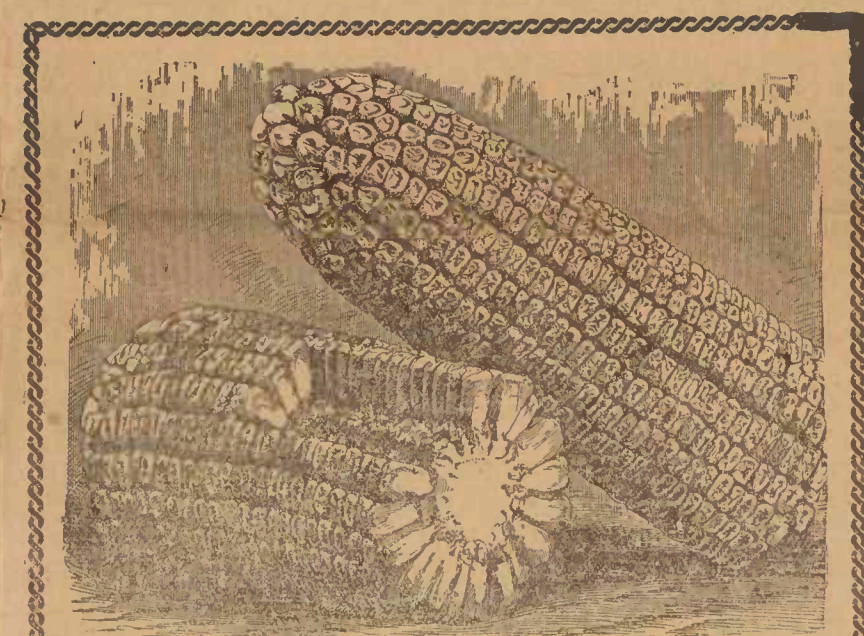


### Our Special Nursery Catalog



Save Agents Commission—Choice northern grown Nursery stock: Every thing in the Nursery lines. A Half Million Trees. The most shapely, the healthiest, the most vigorous growing and best rooted trees to be found in the land. We have no Agents, thus are enabled to give you the benefit of agents commission. Don't fail to write for our new illustrated 32 page Nursery catalog if at all interested. It is our only salesmen but introduces our trees everywhere in the United States. Address,

**Ratekins' Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa**



## Legal Tender

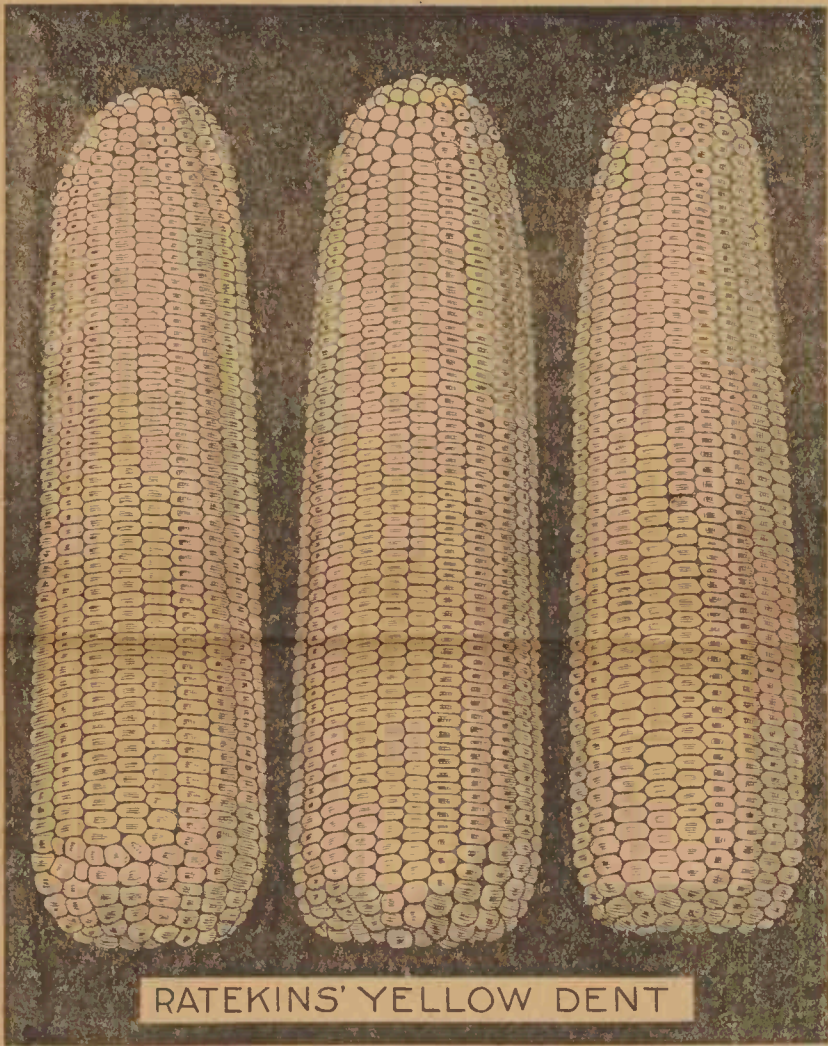
This is now one of the most prominent late varieties of yellow Dent corn in the country. It is the results of about twenty years' selection by a seed corn specialist in Iowa, and has taken first premium at many state and county fairs. The corn is productive, and of uniform pure yellow color, ear very large and long and a deep grain on a small cob, while the stalk does not grow too large. The intruder says: "Our ideal ear is an ear two-thirds as large around as it is long; containing sixteen to twenty rows, and small shank. The kernels are deep, the cob is small at the butt and the ear holds its bigness toward the point until near tapering off. It should be capped over and the kernels should hold their bigness toward the point and the butt run out straight and not crinkle." The above engraving, from photograph, is not exaggerated, but is a true picture of the corn. It should not be planted north of the latitude of a line running east and west through the center of the state of Iowa, but it will do well anywhere south of that line.

**Price:** Packet, postpaid, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c; 7 pounds (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight at expense of purchaser, peck, 40c; 1-2 bushel, 75c; 1 bushel, \$1.35; 2 bushels, \$1.30 per bushel; 10 bushels or more \$1.25 per bushel. Sacks included, f. o. b. here.

Buy your Seeds from the Grower. From Farmers to Farmers who are fixed to reclean and handle Seeds **That's Us.**



# \$200 in Cash Premiums



RATEKINS' YELLOW DENT

This cut was made a Photograph of three typical ears of corn, and very clearly represents the general character and type of it.

### Description

"RATEKINS' YELLOW DENT" is of a strong, robust character; grows off vigorously from the start; stalk medium height, and is very thick, heavy and sturdy, with broad, heavy blades, which help to protect and mature the heavy corn it grows. The roots are very heavy and run down deep into the ground, thus making it one of the greatest drouth-resisters in existence. It has been bred with an eye single to the elimination of all barren stalks, and each and every stalk bears one or more good large well-developed ears, running from 9 to 11 inches long, with 16 to 22 rows of deep, solidly-set grains on a small red cob. The color is a golden yellow, and with the uniformity in size and color, makes it very attractive. The ears are about the same size and shape as our Iowa Silver Mine, except more solid on the cob, and matures safely and soundly in any county in Iowa, or that latitude, in 90 to 100 days, and as before stated, we regard this corn as being one of the best all-around varieties for general purposes that has ever been introduced and feel sure that it will become one of the most notable leading varieties in existence. In our extended experience we have received samples and specimens from all parts of the country, many of them, however, of little merit or value, but some of marked characteristics, that we have found it well worth while to give them a thorough trial, and to send out samples gratuitously to a large number of our customers, to be tested over a wide latitude, in order to better demonstrate their real value. In this search and experience for an ideal variety of yellow corn for general field and crop purposes, we believe we now have and are offering for the first time a variety of corn which we have named "RATEKINS' YELLOW DENT." We have given it our name because we have the utmost confidence that it will prove to be the BEST YELLOW CORN EVER OFFERED or introduced, and for the further reason that it comes nearer our ideal in yellow corn of anything we have ever found, and we have tried hundreds of so-called new varieties.

We are anxious to introduce and have this corn grown, tried and tested in every part of the country in 1904, feeling confident that we are placing before the corn-growing farmers of this country one of the very best and most productive varieties of corn that has ever before been introduced, and in order to encourage all to try it we are offering as an inducement in

### CASH PRIZES

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| For the Largest Yield from One Acre of Ground.....            | \$ 50.00        |
| For the Second Largest Yield from One Acre of Ground.....     | 20.00           |
| For Next Three Largest Yields from One Acre Ground, each..... | 10.00           |
| <b>Total.....</b>   | <b>\$100.00</b> |
| For Best Ten Ears of Corn.....                                | 25.00           |
| For Second Best Ten Ears Corn.....                            | 10.00           |
| For Ten Third Best Ears Corn, each.....                       | 5.00            |
| For Five Fourth Best Ears of Corn, each.....                  | 3.00            |
| <b>Total.....</b>   | <b>\$100.00</b> |

### CONDITIONS OF CONTEST.

You pay nothing for entering this contest. It is wide open to every customer who buys one or more bushels of "RATEKINS' YELLOW DENT" Seed Corn from us at our regular list price, except no professional seed corn grower, seed dealer or seedman will be allowed or considered in this contest.

Each customer who wishes or anticipates entering the contest should advise us at the time he sends his order for the seed. However, the book will be open and he can advise us of his purpose to enter the contest and time up to the 1st of July, 1904. When the crop is made you are not absolutely required to continue in the contest except at your own election but in case you do you will be required to furnish an affidavit signed and sworn to by yourself and two disinterested witnesses showing that the corn has grown from RATEKINS' YELLOW DENT seed which was purchased from us. Said witnesses shall also see the corn weighed, between November 1st and November 15th, and every contestant for either or both prizes shall be required to send us at least ten of the best developed ears from the product of his crop. Express charges prepaid. Every contestant can enter for a premium in both classes if he so desires, one entry for best and largest yield and one for the best ten ears of corn, or he can make but one entry in one class if he prefers. This is entirely optional with contestant, but each should specifically state his attentions at time of sending the sample ears.

We do not want any man, woman or boy to feel that he is ruled out, except class above named, for any cause whatever, and we especially want every boy that reads this CASH PRIZE OFFER to enter the contest, whether you get a premium or not, you will be well repaid for the effort. The President of one of the best State Agricultural Colleges in the United States recently told us that "it was the boys of today that would become the best and most scientific farmers the world has ever known before." BOYS, now is your time and here is your chance. Get in and get in in earnest. Here are TWENTY-TWO PREMIUMS, all worth striving for.

Prizes will be awarded under rules and judges, approved by the President of our Agricultural Association, and the President of First National Bank of Shenandoah, Iowa, and all prizes paid promptly December 1st, 1904.

PRICE, packet, 5c; pound, 30c; 5 pounds, 75c; 7 pounds, (will plant an acre), \$1.25; sent postpaid to any postoffice in the United States on receipt of price. By freight or express at expense of purchaser, per peck, 90c; 1 bushel, \$1.75; bushel, \$3.00; 2 bushels or more, \$2.75 per bushel; 5 bushels or more, \$2.60 per bushel; sacks included.

## "RATEKINS' QUEEN OF NISHNA."

THE EARLIEST DENT CORN IN EXISTENCE.



RATEKINS' QUEEN OF NISHNA is without doubt the earliest Dent corn there is in existence or that is grown and is especially well adapted to northern climates where the seasons are short and where frost is expected early; also to the South where corn is often planted late in the season, after the small grain crop is harvested and taken off the ground. It supplies the place and is far superior to the Mexican June corn in the south, and the extra earlies in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and New England, always maturing in seventy to eighty days, and even where any of the flint corn will mature.

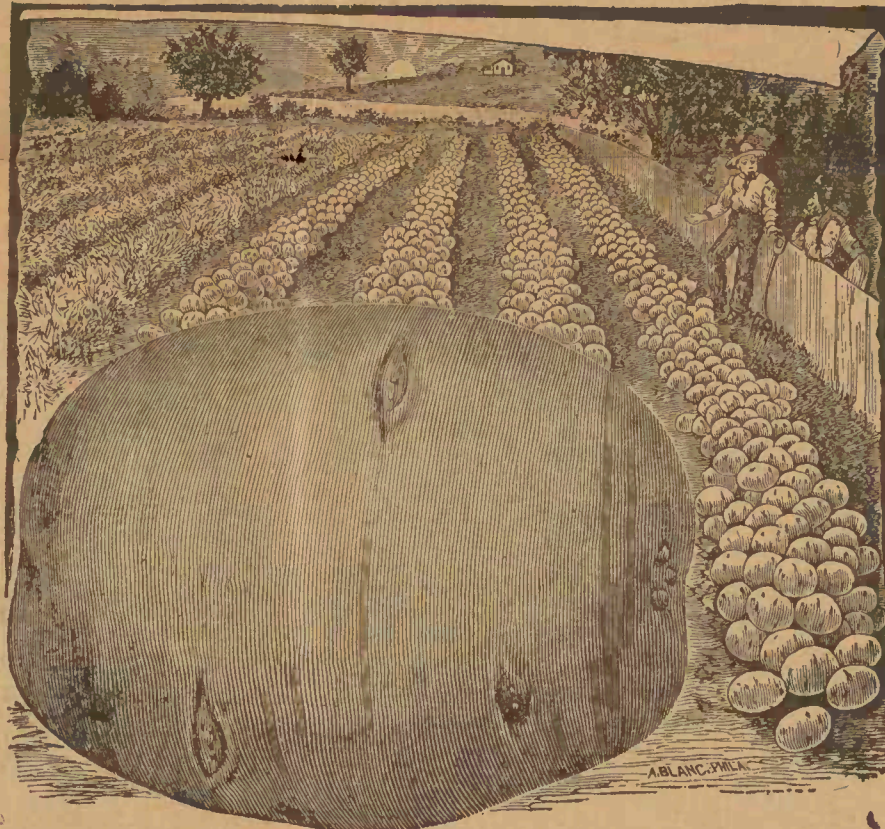
"Ratekins' Queen of Nishna" resembles very much the "Pride of the North." By careful selection and improvement by planting only from the best strains, and from stock grown especially for seed purposes with the utmost care, we claim our stock to be of superior quality in earliness as well as in yield and quality of product. In fact, we have used every known method in breeding this corn up to obtain all the essential points of highest standard known in the perfection of extra early variety of field corn for the extreme north, as well as to supply an extra early corn for the central, western and southern states for late planting.

DESCRIPTION.—The ears run from seven to ten inches long, with sixteen to twenty rows (usually about eighteen rows) of very deep compact grains, solidly set on a very small red cob, and yields from forty to sixty bushels per acre; our seed crop this season was unusually fine, and yielded strong Fifty-five Bushels Per Acre. We have sold hundreds of bushels of this corn all over North and South Dakota and Minnesota, and it has given remarkably good satisfaction and yield. In 1901 we sold one large farm company in North Dakota sixty bushels of this seed for their own planting purpose, and another land company fifty bushels, besides hundreds of smaller orders, and without exception they obtained the best of results, and many of them since have given us large orders, many of them from 100 to 500 bushels, on the strength of results from this seed corn. It's the corn for the North and for the South, and the corn to plant everywhere where early varieties are wanted for any purpose. We cannot too strongly commend it to our customers and to the farmers everywhere where you want an extra early variety. It's the corn to plant. PRICE: Packet, 5c; peck, 50c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c; 7 pounds, \$1.00, postpaid. By freight per bushel, \$1.50; 2 bushel, \$2.90; 10 bushels and more, \$14.00. Bags free on board cars here.

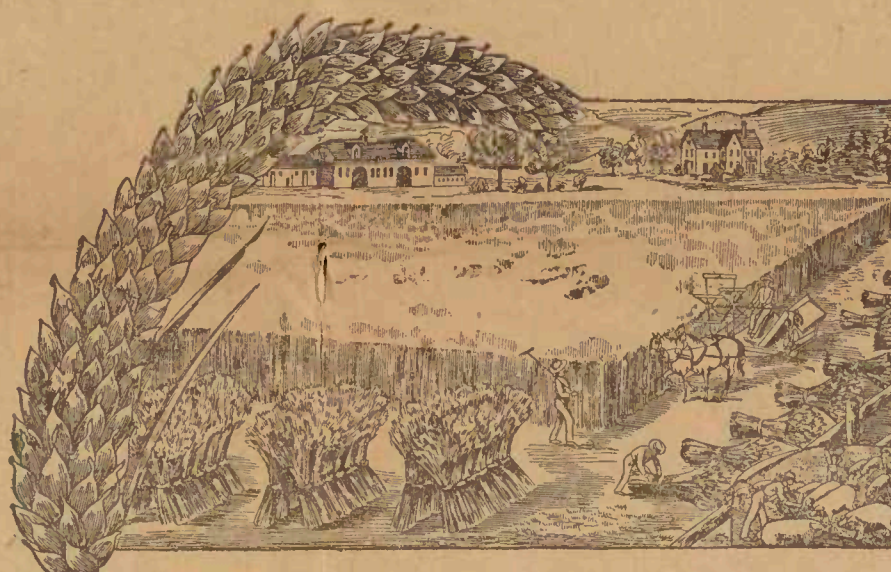
## Ratekins' Extra Early White Corn



This corn is exactly the same type of corn as our "Queen of Nishna," and is equally as early, maturing in from seventy to eighty days from planting time. It is in great request and demand everywhere for grinding and mill purposes early in the season and before other field varieties are dry enough to grind into cornmeal. It will bear planting somewhat closer and thicker than later and larger varieties; Thus it often yields as much as the larger sorts, besides every pound of it is as solid as lead, our crop this season yielding full fifty-five bushels per acre. PRICE: Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c; 7 pounds, \$1.00, postpaid; per bushel, \$1.50; 2 bushels, \$2.90; 10 bushels and over, \$14.00 per bushel.



Ratekins' Early Ohio Potatoes



Ratekins' Success Bearded Barley, the Greatest Cropper in the World

## St Charles White Corn

This variety is quite popular with some of our customers in Missouri and makes a good crop in southern Iowa, though we do not recommend it north of Des Moines. It is a handsome, pure white corn, set on a red cob, and the corn appears to be much clearer white than most of the white-cob varieties. It is such a transparent enamel white color that it makes a high grade of corn meal, and it is therefore highly valued by the millers. The ears are usually eight and one-half to ten inches in length sixteen rowed, and the kernels are quite deep and broad, the upper corners of the kernel rounding. Stalk grows to medium height but has quite broad succulent leaves, and is, therefore, desirable for fodder purposes. We believe that our customers throughout the South will be well pleased with his corn as a grain crop, and it is of superior value everywhere, even in Manitoba and the far North, for fodder and insilage. It has made many friends and each year adds to the number. PRICE: Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c; postpaid. By freight per bushel, \$1.40; 2 bushels or more, \$1.30; 10 bushels or more, \$1.25.

## Champion White Pearl

This was undoubtedly the best variety of white corn before the introduction of the Iowa Silver Mine. It is recognized and catalogued as a leading standard variety of medium sized early white Dent corn, suitable for general crop. Matures in 115 days; is prolific; the grain is deep and wide, with small cob. The stalk is short and thick, and roots very deeply, with ear growing very low upon it, thus standing our severe storms and drouth well. Desirable for milling, and very largely grown for that purpose throughout the South. If you want some good palatable cornmeal, grow a little of the "Champion White Pearl" and have it ground. PRICE: Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c, postpaid. By freight, per bushel, \$1.50; 2 bushels or more, \$1.40; 10 bushels or more, \$1.30.

## Reid's Yellow Dent

Ear is of excellent shape, nearly cylindrical, tapering slowly to tip; length about ten inches. Kernels firm on cob, eighteen to twenty-four rows with narrow space between rows. Color: medium yellow with white cob. Ear is quite solid and rather smooth. Matures in about 110 to 120 days and yields well although not equal in this respect to some other sorts. PRICE: Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds 60c postpaid. By freight, per bushel, \$1.50; 2 bushels or more, \$1.40; 10 bushels or more, \$1.30.

## Iowa Gold Mine Corn

It is early ripening, only a few days later than "Pride of the North." Golden yellow, as handsome as gold; grain is very deep, cob small, and therefore dries out very quickly as soon as ripe. Seventy pounds of ear corn makes sixty pounds of shelled corn and in hauling to market it weighs out more to the wagon than common varieties. We have shelled selected ears of this variety which produced sixty-two pounds of shelled corn and only eight pounds of cobs to the bushel. It matures perfectly in southern Minnesota.

We can most confidently recommend it. See a sample before buying elsewhere. PRICE: Packet, 5c; pound, 25c; 3 pounds, 60c, postpaid. By freight, per bushel, \$1.50; 2 bushels or more, \$1.40; 10 bushels or more, \$1.30.

## Iowa Yellow Dent

We always advise farmers to select the best named varieties in buying seed corn, and believe it pays them in the long run. This year, however, there are thousands of farmers in need of seed corn and their main object is to secure at a low price a nice grade of good yellow corn which is well matured, thoroughly tested, of strong vitality, and will produce a good crop of sound corn. While this corn is not equal to our best named varieties, still we believe you will find it superior to nine-tenths of the corn in your neighborhood. At our price it will cost you only about 15 Cents Per Acre to plant your field with this variety and it will pay you well to order sufficient for your planting. PRICE: Packet, 40c; bushel, \$1.35; 2 bushels or more, \$1.25; 5 bushels or more, \$1.15; 25 bushels or more, \$1.00.

## Pride of the North

The ears are eight to nine inches long, with small cob and kernel; seventy pounds of ears will make sixty pounds of shelled corn. Color: bright orange and very uniform. Will ripen in ninety days and matures in this latitude when planted in June. PRICE: Peck, 50c; bushel or more, \$1.55; 10 bushels or more, \$1.50.

## Giant Fodder Corn

BEYOND ANY DOUBT, we are strictly in it on the best Fodder Corn in existence. It is pure white corn, cropping as high as fifty tons per acre, but not over-large and coarse stalks as some varieties are. It is well adapted to any section where silo's exist, and is especially popular with dairy farmers, to whom we have sold thousands of bushels of corn for ensilage purposes. It grows very tall and leafy. Drill one and one-fourth bushels to the acre in rows three and one-half feet apart. PRICE: Peck, 30c; bushel, \$1.00; 10 bushels and over, 90c per bushel. Bags included, f. o. b. here.



Dwarf Essex Rape



Medium Red CLOVER.



ALFALFA or Lucerne CLOVER.



ALSIKE CLOVER



German Millet



Speltz



Mississippi

Pontotoc Co., Miss., Aug. 27, '03. Ratekin Seed House, Shenandoah. Gentlemen:—The Garden Seeds I bought of you last spring, I am pleased to tell you, they did better than native sorts in fruiting, standing the drouth and stood better in germination. Respectfully yours, J. P. Pitts.

Carroll Co., Miss., Aug. 25, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I write you to say that I and several of my neighbors, bought some of your Iowa Silver Mine seed last spring, and planted it in Central Mississippi, and all of us are well pleased. Our corn will make from 50 to 75 bushel to the acre, and will mature fully four weeks earlier than our common native sorts, and has 18 to 24 rows to each ear, and is all you can claim for it. Very respectfully, M. E. Hocis

Washington Co., Miss., Aug. 23, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I planted one bushel of your Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn, and am well pleased with it, and never expect to plant any other variety. Its far ahead of our native corn and a sure cropper, and the purest variety I have ever seen, I have found it to be all you claim it to be. You will receive another order from me next spring as well as from my neighbors who have seen my corn, as they say they want me to put in an order for them, also. Very Resp'y, F. Norman.

Yazoo Co., Miss., Aug. 22, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought from you last spring, did well and I think will make 55 to 60 bushel to the acre. I will take some more of your seed again next spring and will send early. Very truly, B. F. Kilpatrick.

Neshoba Co., Miss., Aug. 22, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought from you last spring, did well and I think will make 55 to 60 bushel to the acre. I will take some more of your seed again next spring and will send early. Very truly, M. C. Howington.

Tate Co., Miss., Aug. 18, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought from you last spring is all right and far ahead of our native sorts here. The Silver Mine is much earlier than our native corn, and stands drouth much better, every body is going wild over it here, and think you can sell a big lot of it next spring. Very truly, H. W. Edwards.

Holmes Co., Miss., Aug. 16, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought of you is a perfect success, over 50 per cent being made now, every stalk having two good ears. I want your Seed Corn next season and will place my order earlier. Very truly, J. R. Garnett.

Clairborne Co., Miss., Aug. 14, '03. Ratekin Seed House, Gentlemen:—In reply will say, your Seed Corn did well, being fully three weeks earlier than our native sorts and the Rape I got from you is all right. Very truly, T. P. Pickett

Montgomery Co., Miss., Aug. 12, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought from you "Pride Nishna" and Iowa Silver Mine, I think will go 50 bushel to the acre, and is good. Very truly, W. J. Faulkner.

Bolivar Co., Miss., Aug. 23, '03. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn bought of you is early and has proven to be extra good for this country. T. J. Scott.

Yazoo Co., Miss., Aug., 1903. Ratekin Seed House, Gentlemen:—We planted your "Iowa Silver Mine" about the 20th of March, and we have been feeding it since the first of July, it will yield one-third to one-half better than native corn. My manager says that your corn is the best he ever saw. Truly yours, W. A. Henry.

Quitman Co., Miss., Aug. 7, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with the seed bought of you last spring, I think your corn will make 60 bushel to the acre, and I believe if it had been planted the last of March or first of April would have made a hundred bushel. Your seeds all came up well. I believe every seed grew that was planted, and I will order more seeds from you next season, and will order earlier than I did last year. Very truly, Wm. Willis.

Holmes Co., Miss., Aug. 10, '03. Corn I bought of you will say am well pleased, most every stalk has two ears, and is earlier than our native sorts. Very truly, Steve Rhyne.

Sunflower Co., Miss., Aug. 9, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—Regarding the Seed Corn purchased from you, will say I planted in April, and have the finest crop of corn in this country, will make 40 bushel to acre. Very truly, M. L. Tenhit.

Attala Co., Miss., Aug. 9, '03. Ratekin Seed House, Gentlemen:—Regarding the seed bought of you last was for several of my neighbors as well as myself, and we are all more than pleased with the results of the seeds. We are going to plant the same in the future, and would advise every farmer to do same. We can state yield, but are satisfied. Respectfully, Jeff G. Sims.

Bolivar Co., Miss., Aug. 10. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I purchased 10 bushel of Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn from you last spring, and notwithstanding the drouth which prevailed through the country, it will make 50 bushel to acre. I am sure you will receive quite a number of orders from this locality another year, as my neighbors have all looked at my field, and have advised them to order some of your Iowa Silver Mine next spring, and I will send you an order myself, as I will plant nothing else. Very truly, F. W. Scott.

Yazoo Co., Miss., Aug., 6, '03. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I am pleased to say that all the seeds I bought of you has given good satisfaction. Please send me your 1904 catalog. Very truly, T. J. Marshall.

Sunflower Co., Miss., Aug. 8, '03. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine Seed which I purchased from you last spring, is all you claim for it, and has done better than any corn in this locality, I can sell over 100 bushel of Silver Mine for you next spring. My crop will make 45 to 50 bushel to acre. Very truly, W. H. Harris.

Yalobusha Co., Miss., Aug. 8, '03. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine I bought from you, gave excellent results, and will double the yield of native sorts. Very truly, J. F. Holt.

Caliborne Co., Miss., Aug. 3, '03. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought of you did fine, will make 45 bushel to the acre and is far ahead of native corn, the millet I got from you also did better than any I have ever sowed. I will order some of your oats and clover seed later. Very truly, E. H. Ikard.

Hancock Co., Miss., Aug., 1903. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—Your Iowa Silver Mine is the best corn we have ever had in this part of the country. I will call on you for seed again next spring. Very truly, Theo. Smith.

Tallahatchie Co., Miss., Aug., 25, '03. J. R. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—The Silver Mine Seed Corn we purchased of you we are well pleased with, we think it better for this country, as it is far better than any corn ever planted in this locality. Very truly, S. J. Nesbit and Wife.

Yazoo Co., Miss., Aug. 10. Gentlemen:—I bought of you both "Imperial" and "Pride Nishna" and planted it March 12, and bids fair to make 50 bushel to the acre. I think the "Imperial" White Corn, exactly the corn for this country, it is the best in my neighborhood. Very truly, A. E. Schaffer.

Jefferson Co., Miss., July, 30. Gentlemen:—I planted some of your seeds last year consisting of your Silver Mine, Pop Corn and pumpkin seed, and will say my crop from them is the finest in this country. I expect to buy my Seed Corn from you each season. Very truly, Jno. I. W. Ross.

Yalobusha Co., Miss., Aug. 1, '03. Gentlemen:—I planted about 600 acres of your Seed Corn this year, it has done well and will do to gather in about three weeks. I think it much better than our native corn. Please send me your circular and prices on alfalfa. Very truly, J. R. Weissinger.

Newton Co., Miss., Aug. 1. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought from you, namely, Iowa Silver Mine, and Pride of Nishna, and Ratekin's New Sensational Oats, are exceptionally good, and I will get more than an average yield. To make it short, I am well pleased. Very truly, I. B. Bassett.

Warren Co., Miss., Aug. 2, '03. Gentlemen:—From the Iowa Silver Mine and Pride Nishna Seed Corn we purchased from you last season, will say we think it will yield an average of 40 per cent over native corn. We shall plant more of it next season. Very truly, Harris Bros.

Cosiah Co., Miss., Aug. 1, '03. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine, Pride Nishna, Imperial and Queen Nishna, I bought of you last spring is the largest yielder I ever saw, in this country, there is seldom a barren stalk, and many with two good ears to the stalk. My corn will make from 25 to 50 per cent more than common sorts, I think it is the corn for the south. Very truly, W. E. Snadifer.

Winston Co., Miss., Aug. 12, '03. Gentlemen:—The seed corn I bought from you last season is all you claim for it. Am pleased and would advise all others to plant no other but your seeds. Very truly, F. L. Hammond.

Noxubee Co., Miss., Aug. 11, '03. Gentlemen:—I will say the German Millet bought of you last spring is all you claim for it, am well pleased. Very truly, Dr. Jos. J. Whittle.

Bolivar Co., Miss., Aug. 25, '03. Gentlemen:—The corn I bought of you came up O. K. and every stalk has two ears to the stalk, can not praise it too highly. Very truly, N. H. Frederick.

Hinds Co., Miss., Aug. 19. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn bought of you has given perfect satisfaction, it ripens about three weeks earlier than native sorts. I can not recommend it too highly to the southern farmers. Very truly, J. A. Harrison.

Alabama

Healing Springs, Ala., Aug. 10, 1903. The corn crop now is practically made, and I hear nothing but praise of the yield and maturity of your seed corn that I sold here. McLemore Mercantile Co.

Washington Co., Ala. Ratekin & Son, Gentlemen:—I will say regarding the Seed Corn I think it is the best corn I ever saw. Very truly, W. H. Harris.

Tuscaloosa Co., Ala. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought of you gave me perfect satisfaction, and think it will make 35bu to acre, while our common sorts will not make over 15bu. I want one of your 1904 catalogs. Very truly, W. W. Farmer.

Walker Co., Ala., Aug. 11, '03. Gentlemen:—I like the Seed Corn I purchased from you fine, it matured in about 85 days. Very truly, J. D. Davidson.

Lamar Co., Ala., Aug. 12. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I purchased from you has made fine corn, I think it will make fully 45 bu to acre, I would not get along without your Seed Corn from ten times what it cost. Very truly, W. H. Harper.

Fayette Co., Ala., Aug. 10. Gentlemen:—The seeds I bought from you have done well. The Iowa Silver Mine Corn is the corn for this country, it will make fully one fourth more than common sorts. Very respectfully, I. M. Brock.

Reinhart, Ala., Aug. 7. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine I bought from you last spring is all right, it matured in 70 to 90 days, and will yield about 30 to 35 bushel to acre, while native sorts will yield only about half. Very truly, H. W. Poellnitz.

Walker Co., Ala., Aug. 8, '03. Gentlemen:—The seed that I ordered and received from you did fine, and am well pleased. Very truly, Jas. T. Grace.

Texas

Bell Co., Texas. Gentlemen:—All the seed we purchased from you did fine and I expect to order all my seed of you next spring. Very truly, Ella M. Griffin.

Limestone Co., Texas, Aug. 03. Gentlemen:—I planted out 20 acres of Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn this season and notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions, I shall have 60 to 65 bushels to the acre and I shall always plant Ratekin's Iowa Seed Corn in the future. Very truly yours, F. Ellison.

Wilson Co., Texas, Aug. 7, '03. Gentlemen:—I bought of you last spring 300 bushels Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine and 200 bushels Pride of Nishna Seed Corn and at the time it was somewhat of an experiment, the seed was all planted in due time and has proven to be the best ever planted in this section, and who planted it are more than pleased with it, I think it is the best corn for this country. Very truly, O. D. Rhodes.

Trinity Co., Texas, Aug. 7. Gentlemen:—We sold both your Iowa Silver Mine and Pride of Nishna the past season and has proven highly satisfactory. Very resp'y, A. J. Wood & Bro.

Williamson Co., Texas, Aug. 7. Gentlemen:—We herewith enclose you \$39.93 to balance our account to date, and we will say the Seed Corn purchased from you has proven wonders, and we think eventually will be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to this country, as the people have seen what it will do, and will plant liberally of it in the future. Some farmers who planted your seed purchased from us, has told us they would plant your seed next year if it cost \$3.00 per bushel. We have no hesitancy in saying it is the corn for this country, as it will mature fully in four weeks earlier than native corn. Very truly, R. H. Tally & Co.

Anderson Co., Texas, Aug. 03. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I bought of you last spring did better than any corn I ever planted, it has done remarkably, and I think will make about 50 bushels to the acre with the chance corn has had. Very truly, R. T. Lewis.

Williamson Co., Texas, Aug. 8, '03. Gentlemen:—With regard to the Seed Corn I bought of you, I am much pleased, and will say it is the best corn for this country, your corn was made when native corn was in roasting ear. Very truly, P. R. Traylor.

Young Co., Texas, Aug. 1, '03. Myself and neighbors purchased some of your Seed Corn last spring, and we are all well pleased, and I will send to you again next spring for my seed. Very truly, W. T. Hightown.

Hays Co., Texas, Aug. 1, '03. Gentlemen:—Am well pleased with the Seed Corn I purchased from you last spring. It is fully 20 days earlier than our native sorts. Very truly, C. W. Richard.

Galveston Co., Texas. Gentlemen:—In regard to the Seed Corn I purchased of you last spring will say, had good results. The Iowa Silver Mine I got of you gave a much larger yield than any native corn in my locality, am well pleased with the rape seed I bought also, its the thing for hogs. You will receive my future orders for seeds. Very truly, J. T. Willson.

Stephens Co., Texas. Gentleman:—I am much pleased with the seeds I purchased from your last spring, please send me your catalog for 1904. Very truly, I. H. Jones.

Runnels Co., Texas, Aug. 03. Gentleman:—I am pleased to say the Seed Corn I purchased from you last spring did fine and am well pleased. I planted some of our native corn beside the seed I bought from you and it did not make scarcely anything. The Iowa Silver Mine Corn is the best corn for us. Very truly, L. Helm.

Limestone Co., Texas, Aug. 03. Gentleman:—All the seeds I bought from you did well, and I think your northern seeds is the only seeds for this country. Very truly, E. C. Herring.

Montgomery Co., Texas, Aug. 1, '03. Gentleman:—The Iowa Silver Mine Seed we bought of you last spring we are pleased to say did well. It did all you recommend it to do, and will make 50 per cent more than native corn. Very truly, Walter T. Dean.

Hamilton Co., Texas. Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with the seed purchased from you and all my neighbors who planted it are as equally well pleased. I think it is the corn for this country. Very truly, J. C. Oxley.

Falls Co., Texas. Gentleman:—The Iowa Silver Mine I purchased from you last season has given entire satisfaction, and is six weeks earlier than our native corn, the millet also made a good yield. The garden seeds bought from you are the finest I ever saw and I am pleased to tell everybody I bought my seeds from Ratekin's Seed House. Very truly, O. C. Johns.

Erath Co., Texas, Aug. 8. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I ordered from you last winter did fine and has given me entire satisfaction, it matured earlier and is better filled out than our native corn. I am highly pleased with results and shall order from you again next season. Yours truly, M. A. Drinkard.

Coleman Co., Texas, Aug. 1. Gentlemen:—Your Iowa Silver Mine and Imperial both, did well for me, I think the Imperial some the best. The garden seeds I got from you did well, and am pleased. Very truly, A. J. Nations.

Farmin Co., Texas, Aug., 5. Gentlemen:—I think your Seed Corn I bought of you will make 60 bushel to the acre, and am well pleased, the garden seed also did fine, and are all you said they were. Very truly, J. M. Biggerstaff.

Lee Co., Texas, 1903. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn purchased from you did well and every one is well pleased. Will make about 40 bushel to the acre. Very truly, J. E. Shulze.

Bastrop Co., Texas, Sept. 17, '03. Gentlemen:—Your Seed Corn was as fine as could be this year, will yield 50 bushel to the acre, and all matured in 90 days. Very truly, Robert Turner.

Bell Co., Texas, 1903. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn bought of you is very fine, and fully 30 days earlier than native corn will. I am well pleased with all seeds purchased of you. Very truly, Major Jones.

Stephens Co., Texas, Aug. 1. Gentlemen:—As to the Seed Corn purchased from you, will say am well pleased it came up well and has given good results. The garden seeds bought from you are as fine as I ever saw. Enclose find \$1, for which please send me some of your turnip seed. Very truly, M. C. Tipton.

Panola Co., Texas, Aug., 5, '03. Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with the Iowa Silver Mine purchased from you, and will say it is far ahead of native sorts raised here. There was a great deal of your seed planted around here and all has done well. My neighbors say that the weevil does not bother your corn like it does the native corn. Very truly, Hamp Tomlinson.

Cherokee Co., Texas, Aug., 1903. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn I bought of you did well. I think it will make 50 bushel to the acre. Your Seed Corn is the kind to plant in this country as it does better than native corn and is much earlier and thriffter. Very truly, Tom Mix.

Louisiana

Morehouse Co., La., Aug. 28, '03. I am well pleased with Seed Corn bought from you last spring; will buy more seeds from you next year. B. F. Rawlinson.

East Carroll Co., La., Aug. 12, '03. I have the best crop of corn I ever raised from your Silver Mine white and Pride of Nishna. Garden Seeds were likewise first class. A. Marat.

Grant Parrish Co., La., Aug., 8, '03. I am pleased to say that I have found your Imperial White and Iowa Silver Mine corn to be the best I have ever grown in this country. Jas. A. Stark.

Franklin Parish, La., Aug. 12, '03. The Silver Mine White Seed Corn ordered from you last spring grew to a grain and gave a perfect stand, and will make me a yield of almost twice as much per acre as native corn side by side with it, all under same conditions. You will receive my order for seeds again next spring. J. W. Carraway.

Jackson Parish, La., 1903. The Silver Mine White Corn purchased from you has made fine crop, will yield 15 bushels more per acre than native sorts, side by side with it, besides its a month earlier to mature. A. F. Stone.

Bossier Parish, La., 1903. Your Iowa Silver Mine White Corn has proven a great success for me. There are many farmers here who will want your seeds especially Seed Corn, next year. G. W. Jones.

Morehouse Parish, La., Aug. 6, '03. I am highly pleased with results from the twenty bushels Seed Corn bought of you last spring. It matured very much ahead of native sorts and made a better yield. It was dry enough for milling purposes August 1st. C. C. Felton.

Arcadia Parish, La., Aug. 20, '03. Corn is all fine, and especially the crop from seed bought from you. I think all the varieties bought of you will yield fully one third more than our native sorts. My crop is along the public road, and it is a wonder to everybody who sees it. Our country is rapidly coming to the front. Yours truly, F. C. Robinson.

Lincoln Parish, La., Aug. 25, '03. Briefly stated: The Seed Corn I got from you, shows a smaller stalk, and much better filled ear than our native varieties. I planted no other variety than yours, and it has attracted quite a little attention in this vicinity. J. H. Henry.

Lincoln Parish, La., Aug. 10, '03. The Seed Corn purchased from you was the Ratekin's Silver Mine, and its the wonder and talk of the neighborhood. It is much earlier to mature than native varieties. J. W. Burt.

Natchitoches Parish, La., Aug. 1, '03. In reply to your favor, would say, the crop from your Iowa Silver Mine, has given me the best crop I have ever grown in this state. I planted and tried it on bottom and hill land; on rich and poor soil, and it beats all on every kind of land. It is quick to mature and stands drouth. I never expect to plant any other Seed Corn than yours for its the stuff. J. B. Barberiesse.

De Sota Parish, La., Aug. 20, '03. I am exceedingly pleased with results from the Seed Corn bought of you last spring. Pride of Nishna, Iowa Silver Mine, and Imperial White. I paid strict attention to my crop, planted your seed side by side with native sorts on rich and on poor land, and everywhere I think it will out-yield my native sorts two bushels to one; besides it grows fast and matures quick. J. W. Hill.

Missouri

Newton Co., Mo. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine and Pride Nishna Seed Corn also garden seeds I purchased from you, did fine. Very truly, C. W. Cracks.

Nodaway Co., Mo. Gentlemen:—Must say I am highly pleased with the Ratekin's Pride Nishna I purchased from you last spring. Very truly, D. J. Busby.

Callaway Co., Mo., Aug. 15. Gentlemen:—The Rape Seed I purchased from you last spring did fine, it grew well and produced an abundance of feed. Very truly, J. W. Fishburn.

Henry Co., Mo., Aug., 7. Gentlemen:—The Seed Wheat I purchased from you made 38 1/2 bushel to the acre, 7 bushel more than other wheat along beside it. Very truly, W. S. Swart.

Atchison Co., Mo. Gentlemen:—The Imperial White Corn purchased from you bids fair to make a good crop. Very truly, J. F. Hanna.

Everton Co., Mo. The Seed purchased is of excellent vitality and am highly pleased with them. Very truly, J. M. Jones.

Illinois

Dade Co., Ill. Gentlemen:—The Pride Nishna Seed Corn I bought of you will make from 40 to 50 bu. to the acre, The New Lincoln Oats bought of you will make 30 bu to acre. Very truly, Fred Anderson.

Douglas Co., Ill. Aug. 29. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn purchased from you has proved O. K. I am fully convinced tnet it will pay every farmer to plant your improved seeds. Very truly, T. W. Bryan.

Miscellaneous.

Swedeberg, Indiana, Oct. 12, '03. Gentlemen:—The clover I purchased from you last season did fine I received the seed wheat ordered from you a few days ago and am well pleased with it. Very truly, Alex Jacobson.

DeKalb Co., Indiana, Sept. 16, '03. Gentlemen:—The garden seeds I purchased from you last season were fine. I will plant no others when I can get yours. Very truly, Roy H. Johnson.

Wabash Co., Indiana, 03. Gentlemen:—Will say in regard to the Seed Corn I purchased from you last season that it will make about 65 bushels to an acre, and this has been a very poor season. I will say that the vitality of your seeds are very superior, having good stand and strong growth, also the Seed Wheat I purchased from you is good, is up now and looks fine. Please send me your catalog of grass seeds I want to sow some more perminate pasture. Very truly, T. J. John.

Boone Co., Indiana, 03. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn and oats I purchased of you will turn out very good. The ideal cabbage was fine. Very truly, W. T. Head.

Rush Co., Missouri, Sept. 15, '03. Gentlemen:—In regard to the Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased of you will say I am well pleased with it and regardless of the wet weather in the spring my seed purchased of you will make from 3 to 5 bushels more than native sorts. Very truly, S. P. Hudson.

Cedar, Missouri, Sept. 16, '03. Gentlemen:—The Corn I bought of you last spring, and will make from 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, and it ripens earlier than our native sorts, I like the corn well and will plant it again next year. Very truly, Abner Jones.

Webster Co., Mo., Sept. 17. Gentlemen:—The Seeds purchased from you last spring were good and have given perfect satisfaction. Very truly, E. A. Mings.

Franklin Co., Mo., Sept., 03. Gentlemen:—In regard to the Seed purchased from you last spring will say I am well pleased. Very truly, Eddie Hargess.

Atchison Co., Mo., Sept., 24. Gentlemen:—Will say that the Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased from you last spring is all right. Very truly, H. N. Eldt.

Howell Co., Mo., Sept., 22. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn, Pride Nishna, I purchased of you last spring is very satisfactory. Very truly, F. E. Jewell.

Clay Co., Mo., Aug. 6, '03. Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with the Seed Corn purchased from you last spring. The Red Rust proof oats purchased from you made a field of three times as much as other oats in this locality and they are very nice quality. Very truly, S. F. Collins.

Schuyler Co., Mo., June 6. Gentleman:—Received Seed Corn ordered from you in fine shape and got fine and perfect stand. Please send 25 pounds rape and oblige. Very truly, T. H. Ballew.

Mason Co., Ky., Oct. 3, '03. Gentlemen:—I planted your Iowa Silver Mine Corn early and it has done fine. I believe it will make twice as much as that of my neighbors who planted native seed. I will plant it again next year. Very truly, J. P. Jefferson.

Union Co., Ky., Sept. 19, '03. Gentlemen:—The Iowa Silver Mine Seed Corn I purchased from you did fine for this season and would have done much better had it not been for the wet weather early. Very truly, C. E. Pike.

McLean Co., Ky., Sept. 18, '03. Gentlemen:—The Seed Corn and Garden Seeds I bought from you last spring did fine and I am well pleased with my crop. Very truly, C. W. Murphy.

Hodgeville, Ky., Sept. 21, '03. Gentlemen:—I am well pleased with the Seed Corn (Iowa Silver Mine) I bought of you last spring. It's fully twenty days earlier than the native sorts. The seed germinated well and I obtained an excellent stand. Respectfully, A. W. Pichenill.

Green Co., Ky., Sept. 16, '03. Gentlemen:—The Garden seeds I received from you last spring did well and I am well pleased. Very truly, Isaac Oaks.

Isanti Co., Minn., Oct. 4, '03. Gentlemen:—The New Sensation oats I bought from you made about 40 bushels to the acre; this was a very unfavorable season too. Please send me your 1904 catalog as soon as it is out of print. Very truly, I. Martin.

Martin Co., Minn., Oct. 7, '03. Gentlemen:—In regard to the Seed Corn will say it came up nicely, and will make 60 to 70 bushels to the acre. Please send me one of your 1904 catalogs. Very truly, Jacob Krumbolz.

Nobles Co., Minn., Oct. 8, '03. Gentlemen:—In regard to the Seed Corn purchased from you will say that it is mostly matured and will make about 45 bushels to the acre. I am well pleased with the Seed. Very truly, Frank H. Haberman.

Nobles Co., Minn., Oct. 6, '03. Gentlemen:—This has been the worst year in 31 years on crops in this country, but I find that the corn from your seed is better than corn was here last year, and I have great faith in your seed. Very truly, William Parry.

Green Co., Tenn. Gentlemen:—The Rape, Speltz, and Bromis Inermis I purchased from you last spring did fine and am well pleased. I think the Bromis Inermis the thing for this country. Very truly, V. Ashburn.

Dyer Co., Tenn., Aug. 31, '03. Gentlemen:—From my seed corn I bought of you will make about fifty bushels to acre. I will get up an order among my friends and neighbors for your seed next spring. Very truly, W. E. Gardner.

McNairy Co., Tenn., Sept. 14, '03. Gentlemen:—The seed corn I bought from you last spring was perfect. I think it will make from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre, notwithstanding the very wet weather. My crop this season is due to good and strong vitality of seed. I am greatly pleased with your Iowa Silver Mine Seed; it is about two weeks earlier than native sorts. I want one of your 150 page books on farm culture. Very truly, W. T. Holley.

Greer Co., Okla. Gentlemen:—I am glad to state that I am well pleased with the Iowa Silver Mine Seed purchased of you, for if I had planted native corn I would have had a complete failure. Very truly, J. W. Weener.

Creek Co., I. Ter. Gentlemen:—We have had a bad season for corn but am pleased to say the Seed Corn (Iowa Silver Mine) purchased from you did fine. Very truly, J. F. Neal.

Harrison Co., Iowa, Sept. 12, '03. Gentlemen:—I purchased both Pride of Nishna and Iowa Silver Mine seed corn from you last spring; planted between showers from May 8th to 23d; gave it good cultivation and yield promises about sixty bushels per acre and is safely out of the way of "Jack Frost" now. Truly yours, C. W. Huff.