

## Hints on Barn Building

C. E. Wilson in Wallaces' Farmer

To one whose vocation requires extensive travel through many different sections of this State, the farm barn offers a fruitful subject for observation. Men yet comparatively young in years recall without difficulty the days when the humble shed roofed with straw or slough hay, and the low board stable formed about the only builded kinds of shelter for the horses and cattle on a majority of the farms, especially in the northern half of Iowa. And anything like the imposing structure that graces the average farm of the Hawkeye State to-day from the line of the great boundary river on the east to the one on the west, and from the northern tier of counties to the southern limit, was a feature sufficiently unusual to excite the interested attention of the beholder and make of its location a starting point for direction to nearby as well as distant places.

Those unacquainted with the facts as they exist and who have harbored the impression that a barn is just a barn and nothing more, may find upon inspection that there is just as much variety in construction and complexity in equipment of farm barns in these modern days as there is in the construction and furnishing of the dwellings in country or in town. In fact, there is a much freer range for the gratification of the wishes of the owner in the case of the barn than in the house, because when a man builds a barn, he builds it for himself alone, but he wants his residence erected to a degree in conformity with the tastes of his fellow-being. An enumeration is here given of some of the distinctive features noticed in the inspection of a large number of horse barns, cattle barns and combination or general-purpose barns that have been built in a score or so of different counties of the State within the past few years.

Near the town of Belmont there has been built recently one of the largest barns of Wright County. In its construction the owner has endeavored to overcome two objections frequently made to the extra large barns, viz., the difficulty of preventing drafts of cold air in certain portions of the structure in winter, and the generally accepted theory that different kinds of farm animals do not thrive so well when kept in a single building as they do when each has a home separate from other kinds of stock. His plan to accomplish this was to build solid partitions in the lower story which separate the horses from the cattle. Sliding doors similar to outside doors are placed at convenient intervals and each part of the barn is warmed in cold weather by the heat of the animals stabled in that particular part. When threshing time comes, the machine is set near the door of the immense mow, a twelve-foot plank moved by rope and pulley contrivance with a horse in the yard for motive power, "bucks" the straw to the desired position within the building as the grain is threshed, and thus is avoided one of the great farm wastes that results when wind, rain and snow have finished with a crop of straw.

A Franklin County farmer has just finished a bar that he planned with a view of convenience in the matter of getting hay from the upper story to within reach of the animals below, employing the following arrangement: A fed alley runs lengthwise through the center of the building. Two-thirds of one side is devoted to horse stalls, the remaining to loose young cattle. On the opposite side first comes the grain bins, then a feed alley joining the longer one at right angles and sup-

plying two rows of milk cows placed face to face. The remaining portion of the floor space is directly opposite to the part devoted to young stock, and is used for the same purpose. Through this arrangement, a single opening from the mow is all that is necessary, as the hay falls comparatively near to the place where it is to be placed for feeding.

Near Clarion, in Wright County, there is a mammoth basement barn in which horses are sheltered in the second story. To make the floor water-proof, the builder, using heavy plank, poured hot tar into the cracks as the floor was laid, and the desired result was effected.

A Butler County farmer living near Parkersburg bought twenty large cottonwood trees as they stood, paying \$20 for the lot. He cut them down, hauled the mto a saw-mill, and then took them home in the form of beams, studding and sheeting, 11,500 feet in all. With this as a basis, he built a barn 38x54 feet, and 36 feet to the peak of the roof. Some of the home-made timbers are 8x9 inches, and the interior of the building resembles those built twenty-five years ago, when much heavier stuff was used than now, with this class of material so expensive.

The owner of a big barn near Iowa Falls, finding the sills in a decayed condition, decided to remedy the matter once for all, so he raised the building on its foundation with jacks, put in a cement sill all around, cemented in spikes with heads down and points two inches above the surface underneath the studding, then lowered the building and let it nail itself fast as it settled on the foundation.

On the 1,900-acre tract of land a few miles north of the town of Goldfield, popularly known as the Crill ranch, there is a great barn of unique construction. It is 100 feet long and sixty-four feet wide. The main part is twenty-four feet high, and the height to the peak of the roof forty-five feet. The walls are of solid concrete. Eight hollow piers of the same material extend from the ground to the top of the walls, and afford ventilation by the King system. Two concrete silos are built at one end of the barn, each with a capacity of 160 tons. The immense haymow has a capacity for more than 150 tons of hay.

One of the finest appearing barns, as well as one of the most unique in construction in Northern Iowa, is the splendid barn erected by Mr. D. D. Payne, of Eagle Grove. It is 60x64 feet in size and the walls to a height of ten feet are constructed of boulders taken from the land in the vicinity. The walls are eighteen inches thick, except the rear one, which is two feet. The whole is painted green and the elegance of the workmanship, massiveness and unusual size of the structure make it a feature well calculated to attract the attention of the observer.

A farmer in the vicinity of Dows, Iowa, working on the theory that the greatest possible skill and care are necessary in barn building in these days of high-priced labor and materials, put up a building of moderate dimensions on his farm. The lumber used is all white and yellow pine. There are only ten 2x4's in the whole structure. The main timbers are 6x8's, the plates 6x6's, and the rafters 2x6's. Every board of the sheeting was painted before it was nailed to the studding, and the shingles were all painted before they became part of the proof.

One Northern Iowa man incorporated an original idea when he re-

cently erected a barn on his farm. When it came to the driveway, he made the doors on one side much higher than on the opposite side. This arrangement permits of driving in with a load of hay, transferring it to the mow, dropping the ladder of the rack and passing out on the lower side.

In completeness of equipment, perhaps few barns in the whole State surpass that on the Charles Wolcott farm, in Poweshiek County. Besides stall room for horses and cattle, and an immense mow for hay, it contains a garage, engine room and tank room. In one corner is a 250-barrel tank from which a complete system of water-works spreads like net-work all over the building. From it also water can be forced to the topmost part of the family residence. Litter and feed carriers run back and forth on tracks, complicated machinery elevates grain and changes it from one bin to another, watering devices are so arranged that the cement pans in the stalls can be filled at will and the sewerage arrangements are as complete as those of a modern house. One of the big doors is set with double beaded panels placed diagonally, and contains a row of half a dozen separate windows. Sixty tons of cement were required for the floors, foundation walls, walks, etc. Three car-loads of white and yellow pine used in the construction of this magnificent barn were brought direct from a point somewhere in Texas.

### ONLY "DRY" PLACE.

"Where can I get a drink in this town?" asked a traveling man who landed early one morning at a little town in the oil region of Oklahoma, of the 'bus driver.

"See that millinery shop over there?" asked the driver, pointing to a building near the depot.

"You don't mean to say they sell

whiskey in a millinery store?" exclaimed the drummer.

"No, I mean that's the only place here they don't sell it," said the 'bus man.—Exchange.

"Are those boys' intentions of a bellicose nature?"

"No, mum, they're just going to fight."—Baltimore American.

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