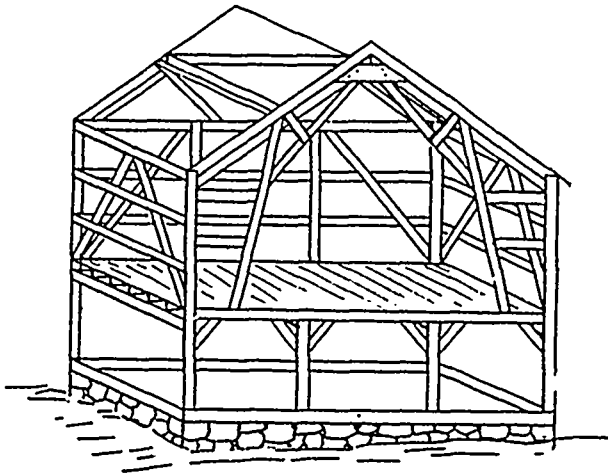


to raise. Counting wages at \$2 and board at 50 cents, the cost was \$20. Had it been framed of solid timber it would have required about four weeks. Counting wages and board as before, the cost would have been \$120, a difference of \$100. It thus gives also,

Fifth, a saving in cost. For besides the \$100 saved in the cost of framing, we have a saving of 20,000 feet of timber, which, at \$15 per thousand, is worth \$300. Now, let the farmer's wife figure the value of all the time spent in work and worry in cleaning after the hands through the extra twenty days in framing, and while hauling the extra 20,000 feet of timber, and you can form some idea of this advantage.

Sixth, a saving of labor. In addition to the saving of labor effected by the manner of framing, there are no very heavy timbers to handle, and anyone who has ever handled the timber for one barn will appreciate this fact. Then, too, the man who has turned a two-inch auger in a boring machine beneath the burning rays of a midsummer sun, will be glad to know that both mortises and tenons are found already made in this system.

Seventh, greater strength. Some will doubt if such a frame can be substantial. They are accustomed to timber, 8 x 8, 10 x 10, and even 12 x 12. But the first thing carpenters do with such timbers is to cut them full of



Two Bents combined, showing haybay over basement

holes, and cut down the ends to 2 x 8 or 2 x 6 for tenons. Shipbuilders use planks in making timbers that must sustain a great amount of strain. Bridge builders apply the same principle. The great cables that support suspension bridges are made of many small wires, whose united strength is greater than that of a single wire equal in dimensions to all combined.


Again, the timbers are so placed in this system as to resist the weight of strain endwise rather than crosswise. They also form triangles, rather than squares or rectangles, the triangle being the strongest of all geometrical figures, because it is absolutely impossible to change any angle without at the same time changing one of the sides.

Some ask if this frame will support a slate roof. Yes, two of them if desired. Is not every principle of support to the roof fully met? If the work is rightly done, it is stronger than many old style frames in which the laws of mechanics have not been regarded.

Can I have a gambrel roof? Yes, you may have gambrel, mansard, curb, French, Italian, Gothic, gable, hip, or even a shed roof, just as you wish, and the barn will not be weakened a particle.

Can I build an octagon barn thus? Yes, an octagon, a hexagon, or any doggon shape you desire.

The system is no untried theory, but a well-established fact. When the first barns were thus constructed the idea was not fully developed, but the barns have withstood heavy winds, the system has withstood many striking remarks, and the idea has been more fully developed, hence it cannot now fail to satisfy any intelligent farmer or stockman of the capabilities of such a barn.

In basement barns the basement may be built of solid timber, if desired, with joist-bearers lengthwise of barn and sills crosswise, or inverted T posts, thus , without sills.

## Ontario Crop Prospects

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has issued its first crop report for the present season. The weather records for the six winter months show that, while the severity of the weather was slightly more intense than the average, the conditions which prevailed during February were especially unfavorable to agriculture. The absence of the protection generally afforded by a thick covering of snow during midwinter explains the serious injury sustained by fall crops and other vegetation.

The weather during the winter and the early spring has been exceedingly unfavorable for fall wheat, and as a consequence the crop, which promised well before the snow-fall, has been greatly injured by the inclemency of the season, and is practically a failure in many localities. The dry weather which has prevailed in some neighborhoods since the opening of the growing season has also wrought some injury. A considerable percentage of the area sown to fall wheat has been plowed up. There are slight losses from insect pests reported, wireworms and the Hessian fly having appeared last fall in a few localities in the western part of the province. At the time correspondents wrote rain was urgently needed at several points to ensure the remaining crop.

A large proportion of the clover crop in every section of the province has been winter-killed owing to the scarcity of snow. The thinness of the old growth by reason of the drought of last season, and the poor catch on newly-seeded areas, contributed to the result. Winter rye is not extensively raised in any part of the province, but where grown it has generally come through the winter in good condition and promises well. In some quarters clover is beginning to suffer from lack of moisture.

The late opening of spring, which rendered vegetation generally behind in the earlier part of the season, has been compensated for by recent warm and favorable weather, which has resulted in so rapid a growth that in many localities the 1st of May found vegetation well advanced, affording good pasture for live stock. There are considerable varied reports regarding seeding, and while some of them state that the seed-bed has been favorable, a large number describe the soil as being too wet. The prospect is that a full area of spring grains will be sown, particularly of oats.

Reports as to the condition of the fruit trees vary in different sections and sometimes in the same localities. In the Essex district many peaches have died during the winter, while in the Niagara district the loss reported is small. Generally speaking there has not been serious injury to fruit trees other than peaches. A majority of correspondents speak of an abundant bloom on orchard trees, and some fear that the blossoms are out so early that the late spring frosts may attack them. There are some references to black-knot on the plum, but the chief trouble complained of is the appearance in large numbers of the tent caterpillar.

As a rule, live stock have wintered well, and are in good condition, fodder being abundant, though some correspondents note a scarcity, especially in the west and on the Lake Erie frontier. Many of the cattle are reported rather thin in flesh, though healthy. The market for both horses and horned cattle is brisk, and prices good. Horses have suffered in some places from influenza and distemper. Sheep have been remarkably prolific, and the young lambs are mostly strong and healthy, though in a few localities considerable losses have taken place. The most serious disease affecting live stock has been an ailment described as crippling or rheumatism which has destroyed very large numbers of pigs, especially the younger animals, in almost every part of the province.

A considerable quantity of hay beyond that necessary for home requirements remains in the hands of farmers in