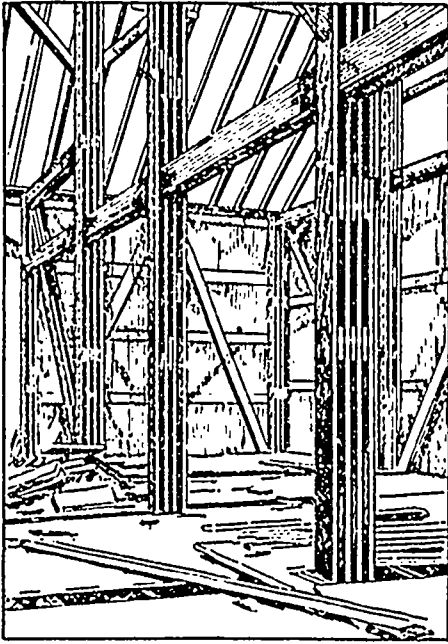


centre the short way. This basement is used exclusively for live stock, all the space above is for hay, and there is no timber from the floor to the comb, in the way of handling it. Whether this frame is as strong, at all points, as some of the mammoth timber frames (much of which is used) we have seen in barns, would be difficult to decide;



A Corner of the Plank Frame Barn. Fig. 313.

but I am convinced that the Shawver frame is abundantly strong for all purposes for which a barn is used. My barn is now nearly full of hay; I observed it pretty closely, and I cannot see any place where there is any lack of strength or symmetry. It stands as straight and trim as any building, in fact there is no chance for it to do otherwise, as it is so well braced and supported wherever needed."

Sheep Eating Weeds

We have had occasion in these columns to refer frequently to the fact that sheep are the greatest destroyers of weeds of any animal kept on the farm, and we are glad to have our views upheld by such an authority as the *American Sheep Breeder*, from which we take the following:

"The fact that many plants usually classed as weeds are in pastures often eaten by sheep, either to give variety to their diet or for the tonic effect on their systems. It mentions the common dandelion, parsley, yarrow, and even thoroughwort, as desirable for this use. In England sheep growers purposely sow yarrow when laying down pastures for sheep, and also the narrow-leaved plantain. Most of these are somewhat bitter to the taste, and the liking for what is bitter seems to be a peculiarity of the sheep, which often leads it to eat leaves that are poisonous rather than medicinal. It is possible that all these plants have medicinal qualities, but the sheep does not know enough to doctor itself with them, as sheep are often poisoned by eating leaves of laurel when allowed to run where that poisonous plant grows. We have known sheep to be poisoned when an overdose of cherry leaves was probably the cause. The leaves of the cherry, peach, almond, and of the oleander, all contain prussic acid, and are all poisonous when eaten in any quantity.

"It is chiefly, we think, when pastures are dried up, and the sheep's appetites are clamorous for some green thing, that these fresh leaves are most attractive to them. Yet we should hate to leave even dried leaves of the cherry, almond or peach where sheep could eat all they liked of them. The craving for something bitter probably explains why sheep will eat the tender shoots of nearly all deciduous trees, which are almost invariably bitter to the palate.

With regard to anything uncleanly as regards animal excrement or blood, the taste of the sheep is more refined and sensitive than that of any other farm animal. But it unquestionably does have a liking for what is bitter to the taste, and will eat the small, wormy apples that a hog will turn up his nose at, while the hog will pick its favorite food among filth that no sheep could be brought near enough to touch. In the early summer, while the small, bitter, wormy apples are falling, the sheep is, therefore, a much better scavenger in the orchard than is the hog."

The Kind of Horse to Breed

At the annual meeting of the National Horse Breeders' Association, held at Chicago in March last, Col. F. J. Berry, the president, in his annual address made the following statement in regard to the kind of horse to breed:

"The American horse breeders have had a severe lesson. It has taught them that every horse should be bred for a certain purpose and of a certain type and of a specific class, with all the size, shape and quality that the market demands. The small horse is a thing of the past. It has proven a failure and an unsatisfactory investment. The grade has been raised every year during the last few years, and each successive year requires a larger horse and one of better quality to meet the demands of the market, and he must be a horse of his own class and be an up-to-date market horse, and to be the most saleable he must be decidedly of one of the following classes, which are known as the export classes of horses, and at the same time they are the most saleable and profitable for all American markets:

Class No. 1—Road, Carriage and Coach Horse.

Class No. 2—A Cab Horse.

Class No. 3—An Omnibus Horse.

Class No. 4—A Draft Horse.

Class No. 5—The American Trotter or Road Horse.

Here is the type set for breeders to aim to produce, as the old way of breeding without system proved so disastrous and a great failure. A proper study of these types will enable the breeder to meet the demands of all markets."

The Barn Floor

Mr. J. S. Woodward, of New York State, gives the following account of a new barn floor recently put in by him:

I have built a number of barns and in my last one I put in a different floor from any I ever saw, and eight years' use has fully sustained the claim that it is perfect. It has also the advantage of being cheap. I first put down a floor of good quality, well seasoned hemlock boards one inch thick and all of a width, twelve inches, these I nailed with three 8 penny nails in each board in each joist. Over this I laid the best quality of water proof paper. On this I laid another floor of well-seasoned Norway pine one inch thick, boards of the same width as the hemlock first laid. I had this lumber surfaced and jointed so as to have edges straight.

To commence a board was ripped in the middle, so as to cause the two thicknesses to break joints. The pine was crowded up tight and three 10 penny nails put into each board in each joist.

Of all the floors I have ever had in a barn over a basement in which stock were kept this is the first one that has never hampered up in places. The paper makes it absolutely tight so that we put grain directly on the floor in granaries and it never moulds, and the same with the hay and grain in mows.

To have put in a floor of two inch pine tongued and grooved, or with grooves and a hard wood tongue, would have cost me \$36 per 1,000 surface feet of floor. I got the hemlock for this floor for \$10, the pine planed for \$14, and the paper cost \$1, which made the whole cost of material \$25 for the same area. I don't think it any more work to