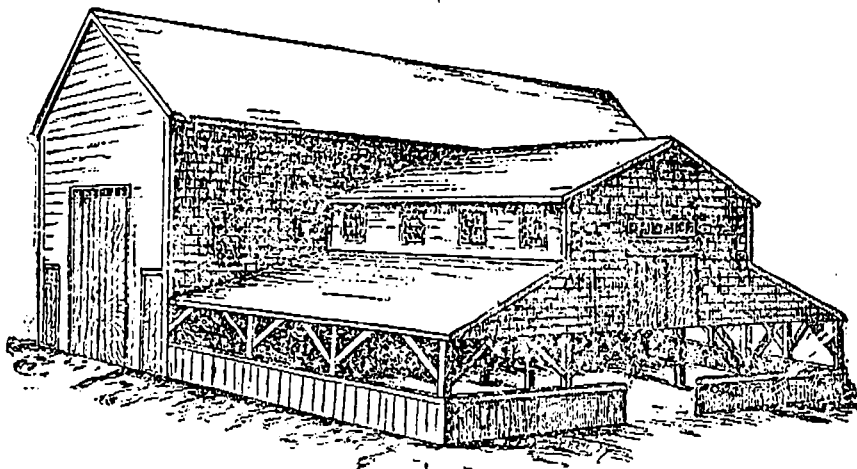




### Covered Barns.

WITHIN recent years a new method of protecting manure has found much favor in certain parts of the country, and this is in the use of completely covered barnyards, over which the accumulating manure from the cow and horse stalls, the calf and sheep pens, is evenly spread, and coarse litter thrown on top, the whole being kept firmly packed by the constant tramping of animals over it, preventing all injurious heating. Such a barnyard also provides splendid protection to animals when housed at night during the summer, this roof protecting them from heavy showers in the night, and affording an excellent opportunity for exercise in the winter, as all the sides, except that toward the south, can be protected against cold winds by being temporarily boarded up. The plan of a



PLAN FOR A ROOFED CATTLE YARD.

covered barnyard shown in the illustration provides not only for the required protection of both animals and manure, but affords also an excellent grain chamber, where grain can be stored convenient for use. Under the side roofs is also afforded a chance for the storing of small tools, and a great variety of articles that are continually in the way when stored about the farm buildings. The plan given here may prove suggestive, even when it is necessary to change it somewhat to adapt it to varied circumstances of location.

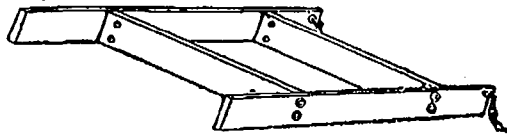
With all due regard to this and other means of saving manure, however, it should be thoroughly understood that manure is never worth any more than at the moment it is voided by our farm animals. It then contains so much nitrogen, potash, phosphoric acid, lime, etc., as it ever will contain. The sooner it is put upon the land the less waste there will be of those elements of plant food, unless the land is so exposed that the manure will wash off, or is so sandy that the plant food will leach away and be lost. Because excrement does not improve by keeping, it is applied at once.—*American Agriculturist*.

### A Leveller for Plowed Land.

One of the best contrivances for preparing wheat and corn ground is one that has been invented in the West, but which has not been patented. The soil here is a loam or drift deposit, free from gravel, and in some places the subsoil is a continuation of the upper soil for a great distance. In plowing the soil it is found that the land will wash during the heavy showers of the summer, and in many places becomes full of small gullies. Although it does not get hard or lumpy like soil of a more clayey nature, still there is trouble with clods when the season is very drouthy. In order to level the land and break the lumps, an implement

has been invented by the farmers here, and is very much in use. For want of some better name it is called a leveller. Another tool called the float, or clod breaker, must not be confounded with the leveller.

The leveller shown in the illustration is made by the use of four planks, three inches thick by twelve inches wide, and fourteen or sixteen feet long. About four feet from each end of two of



the planks a gaid is cut on one side of the plank on the surface side. These four planks are bolted together edgewise, not unlike a box without any bottom or top, except that the sides are not flush with the ends by four feet. If the corners are not braced, large eye-bolts must be used. In order to use the leveller a team is hitched to each of the two front corners, and the implement is hauled through the field, after having been weighted to the proper amount to best serve the character of the field in which it is used. The drivers ride on boards placed across the leveller. The soil will gather in front

of the front plank and all the fine earth will sift through and under the plank; lumps will gather and be mashed, as uneven places are found in the field. When a dead-furrow is crossed, it is at once completely filled up and filled up and levelled in a way that cannot be done with any other tool.

The leveller and the float have almost superseded the harrow here in the preparation of the soil for crops. I prepared the ground for forty-five acres of wheat last fall that never had a harrow in the field, and the wheat looks at this writing as if it would yield thirty bushels per acre. It is a perfect stand and was put in with a press drill. The float or clod crusher is made by placing several planks, twelve or fourteen feet long, in such a way that they will overlap each other, like the siding of a house, and the float is drawn by two or by four horses. I have found that this implement does better work by not being too long. I prefer ten feet to sixteen in length. As the use of these two tools, a field is like an onion bed, and only needs a roller to complete it in some dry seasons.—G. W. FRANKLIN, in the *American Agriculturist*.

### A Small Plant Room.

THE addition of a bay window for the accommodation of plants means the tearing away of a considerable portion of one side of a room, and frequently makes the room thereafter incon-

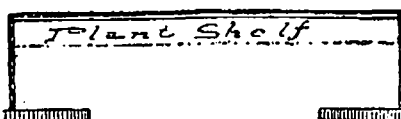


FIG. 1. GROUND PLAN OF PLANT ROOM.

venient for the arranging of furniture. The illustration, Fig. 1, shows how a plant window may be added with very little change in the

original room. An ordinary window is cut down to the floor, making a door of it, while outside of this is built a rectangular addition that will make a charming little room for plants. Of course, the width and depth of the addition can be made to suit one's fancy. The glimpse which one has from the sitting room into such a plant room is exceedingly pleasing, as shown

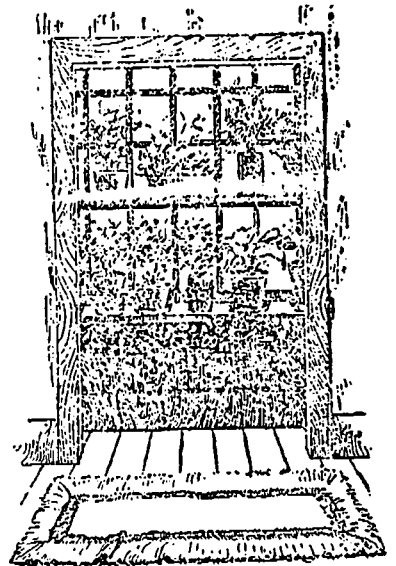


FIG. 2. INTERIOR VIEW OF PLANT ROOM.

in Fig. 2 particularly if the doorway is hung with a pretty portiere. Such a room should have double windows, then, if the portiere is drawn at night, the heat from the sitting-room would keep the plants from freezing on a cold night.

### Table for Sorting Beans.

THE culture of beans is rapidly increasing in Ontario, as they command a very profitable price in the market. In thrashing and winnowing the beans it is almost impossible to remove

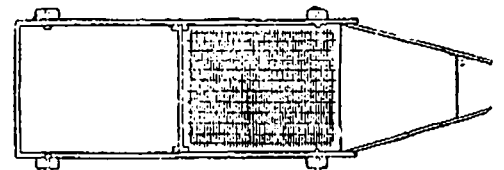


FIG. 1. VIEW OF BEAN SORTING TABLE FROM ABOVE.

all pieces of pods and vines, and the shrunken or diseased beans, hence hand sorting is necessary to put the beans in a clean condition which secures the best prices. An ingenious table on which to sort the beans is shown in the illustration from sketches by E. P. Judson. Fig. 1

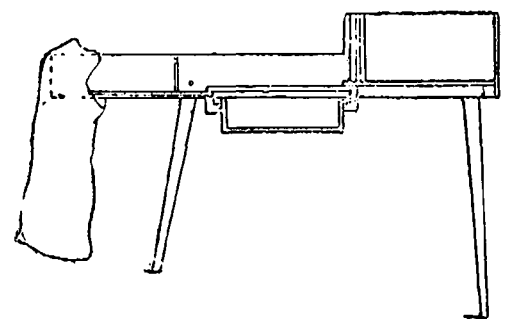


FIG. 2. SIDE VIEW OF BEAN SORTING TABLE.

presents a view of the table from above, showing the sieve and the spout. A side view is shown in Fig. 2, with drawers for refuse and bad beans beneath the sieve. This useful contrivance may be made in portable shape, and the legs can be folded so that it can be brought into the house on cold, stormy days. The legs are bolted to the sides with one bolt each. The height of the table can be varied by making the legs slant more or less, and then fastened by a wooden pin in holes bored to suit. A slide keeps the beans from pouring into the sieve too rapidly.