

Plan of Round Barn.

BY D. P. L. CAMPBELL, PRESCOTT CO., ONT.

The rectangular form of silo is rapidly giving way to the round, the latter being better and cheaper. In barn building, however, the round form does not find the favor it is entitled to, for not only is it cheaper to build, but much less liable to be damaged by storms. Two reasons may be given why so few round barns are to be seen in passing through the country: First, the supposed difficulty of building circular walls; second, the waste of room. With regard to the first, it will be found that a circular wall can be constructed without any real difficulty, as the sills and plates are easily secured by sawing slightly crooked logs into two-inch thicknesses, and by laying a pattern on these and marking them they can be cut with a narrow hand saw. Then place two thicknesses on foundation wall so as to break joints and spike together. Next comes studding, 2 1/2 x 5 inches and 8 feet long, toe-nailed, plumbed and stayed. On top of these place two more thicknesses of planks and spike as before. The ends of beams over basements are laid on them. If the siding is to be laid on horizontally, it can be nailed to the studs; but as it will resist the influences of the weather better by being perpendicular, it can be done by nailing scandling, 1 1/2 x 2 inches, horizontally on outside of studding every four feet. To these nail the siding. Next, for a wall 24 feet high, take 2 x 4 scandlings 16 feet long; toe-nail on top of first stage, plumb and stay, and proceed with siding as before. Spike on plates and the wall is ready for the roof. Now make a circle half the diameter of barn by bending and nailing together four thicknesses of 1 x 4 inch lumber. Support this on posts half the pitch of the roof to serve as a purline plate.

The sarking consists of strips one inch square and placed at a distance apart equal to the length of shingle exposed to the weather, which will be about five inches from center to center.

By examining the accompanying plan it will be seen that there will not necessarily be any more waste space than in any other form, as the irregular space is devoted to feed room. At the same time the plan affords considerable elasticity, which can be modified to suit circumstances and requirements. For instance, if more cattle stalls are required they can be arranged to replace box stall and extend across the building, cutting off part of root cellar, leaving a passage opposite sheep alley. The advantages of two silos are recognized, and the root cellar can be filled from floor above. The dotted line from water tank represents water pipe with taps (X) convenient to water animals or dampen feed. The tank is placed so as to avoid freezing.

Now, as to cost, it will be found much cheaper than the rectangular form. Let us compare the two: A circle 75 feet in diameter represents an area of 4,418 square feet, which would require a rectangle of a little more than 55 x 80 feet.

	Length of Wall.	Feet of Siding.	Area of Roof.
Circle	235.57	7,542	5,178
Rectangle	270	9,410	5,890

Amount of material less required: 1,867 feet of siding; sarking, 4,800; shingles, 712. While for the frame of a circular barn a few logs would provide scandlings enough, the frame timber of a rectangular barn would make a raft.

A Valuable Lesson in Forest Preservation.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have noticed this winter more than ever before in driving through the country how thin most of the blocks of timber are getting. Many are grass-grown and the timber in consequence is not only thin, but is unthrifty and dying fast. Quite a number of farmers in this section are now using coal for heating purposes and wood is used in the cookstove only. This will make the wood spin out a little longer. But even where that is done it is only a question of time, and only a short time, until many farms will be completely bare of timber. A few are bare now, and no wonder, for in most cases no thought has been given to its preservation. Whether it would pay to make any effort in that direction seems doubtful to most people. A few farmers, however, that I know have fenced up their woods and kept cattle out, which is about all the care that forests need. If that is done the young timber will have leave to grow, grass will be choked out, an even and heavy coat of leaves will cover the ground each year and the larger trees will be healthy. In the woods on my farm no cattle have been allowed to run for over twenty years. In places where the old timber was scanty there is now a dense thicket of young trees, many of them forty feet high. Where the old timber was thick the young stuff did not make much show, but the whole grove is now exceedingly

thrifty, so thrifty indeed that there is scarcely ever a tree blown down and we have to cut for firewood trees on which it is hard to find a dead limb. Another effect has followed. Leeks, coltsfoot, bloodroot, maidenhair fern, snowdrops and many other kinds of plants which used to grow in the woods, but were thought to be extinct, have revived, and with the harder wood plants make a beautiful show in spring. The place has come to be quite a resort—perhaps because the sight of a piece of woods in a natural state is a rarity now. It possesses a natural beauty and is as truly a source of pleasure as the elaborately kept grounds of a suburban residence. We look at it in this way: If a city gentleman will spend hundreds of dollars each year paying gardeners to keep his grounds in order, why should not we enjoy the luxury of a place as fine practically without any outlay?

In addition to preserving trees it is well to plant out, especially on the roadside—not too close together, about four rods apart is near enough. I am not so very much in favor of windbreaks, especially around the house—they obstruct the view so.

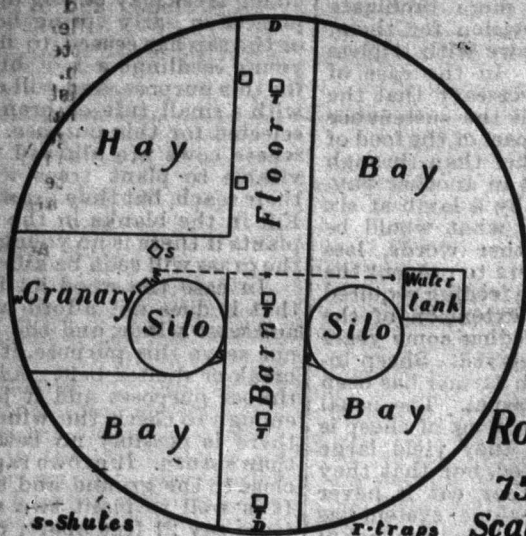
As to the best time to plant trees, my father, who was noted for his success in getting trees to grow, used to plant as soon as possible after seeding, evergreens as well as the others.

We found that rather large trees cut well back grow better than smaller ones. This applies to maples and cedars; never tried cutting back pines. Pines taken from a swamp grow better than those from high land—we supposed on account of having no deep roots.

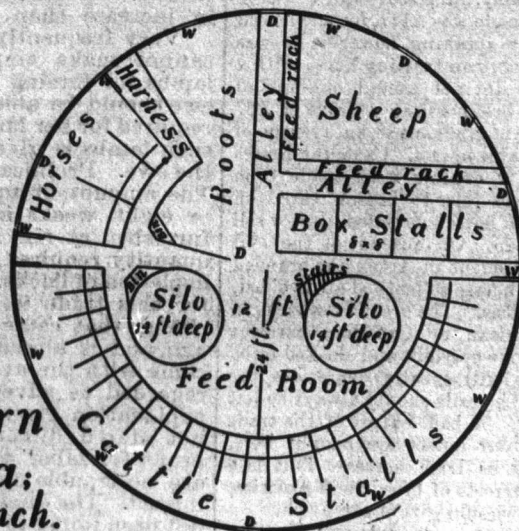
A great deal of the success attending tree planting depends on after care. A good mulch of straw, sawdust or swamp muck is excellent. A plantation of Norway spruce that grew the fastest of any I ever saw were simply kept thoroughly hoed. Above all, keep cattle off. Grass and cattle are the enemies of trees.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

T. BARTY.



Plan of Round Barn
75 ft in Dia.
Scale 1/8 in = 1 ft.



Tree Planting in Nova Scotia.

BY JOHN GREGORY, ANTIGONISH CO., N. S.

The subject of tree-planting is one which we in this part of the country have never been called upon to consider, as all, or nearly all, of our farms have a good extent of woodland. The tendency is to waste rather than consume. Although as yet we have not felt called upon to protect or re-plant our woodland, there is great room for improvement in the planting of ornamental trees and windbreaks on the cultivated portions of the farm. As a general rule, the land around the buildings is absolutely destitute of trees. In a few cases there are some apple trees, and in a few more, trees that have been planted for ornament, but in most cases the buildings stand naked and bare. In the western part of the province more has been done in the planting of ornamental trees than here.

Unless a farm has woodland enough to supply the house with fuel and the farm with fencing, I cannot see that a small lot is of any benefit otherwise than that it may add to the beauty of the place. In order to do this the wood lot must be just so large that the annual growth will equal the annual cut, and an area equal to that cut must be planted each year. The acreage required to fulfil these conditions will depend upon the kind and durability of the wood. In the hard woods used for fuel, not much difference will be noticed, but in the soft woods used for fencing the difference will be very great. Cedar or pine will last a great many years, hemlock not nearly so long, while spruce and fir will last but a very short time. With woods of good quality and well cared for, I should think about fifteen acres should supply a hundred-acre farm. The difference in value of a farm with or without wood would depend greatly upon its situation. If in a district where wood was cheap, the lack of wood upon a farm would not greatly lessen its value. Standing wood can be bought here for eight dollars per acre, so I do not think a farm with a proper proportion of wood would sell for more than one dollar per acre more than if it had none.

Where wood lots are small, they will need careful treatment if they are to continue to supply the annual demand that will be made upon them. The annual wood supply will then become as much a matter of care and attention as any other crop upon the farm. As no good farmer would turn his stock into his meadows to eat down the new growth of grass, neither will he allow them to strip the young trees

in his wood lot and to tramp out the seedlings. As it is upon the young growth that the future supply depends, every possible advantage should be given them.

I certainly favor windbreaks and feel the need of one greatly as a shelter to my buildings. Here we would require them on the north and west. I would prefer evergreen trees—hemlock, spruce or fir—as being of dense growth they offer more resistance to the wind. As the closer a windbreak is to that which is to be sheltered the more protection it affords, I would plant as close as convenience would allow. A windbreak should consist of several rows of trees so placed that each succeeding row fills the space between those of the row preceding it. It should be planted thickly; about seven feet apart would, I think, be a good distance, and as the trees grow large they could be thinned out. I think our native trees would do very well without any particular preparation or after cultivation of the ground, but a quicker growth would be obtained if the ground were kept clean and well cultivated. The best time for planting is the early spring before growth starts.

Trees could with advantage be planted along the road, line and division fences, upon the lawn, and upon all rocky and broken ground. If intended for purely ornamental purposes a number of varieties should be planted and good distances left between the trees—about 30 feet. If for purposes of utility they may be planted very much thicker, thereby insuring a taller and straighter growth.

If care is exercised in their removal I think quite as good success can be had with trees taken from the wood lot as with those bought from the nursery. I think the greatest cause of failure with such trees is that too large trees are chosen and that they are not pruned closely enough when set out. A small tree five or six feet high will give better satisfaction than one of ten or twelve feet, and the pruning knife should be freely used on the head. A forest tree will require much closer pruning than one from the nursery. The holes in which they are to be set should be prepared beforehand, and as the trees will not have to be carried far, as much root as possible should be taken up with them, and they should be planted immediately before the roots have a chance to dry. Any of our wild trees may be successfully transplanted in the spring before growth starts. A good way to prepare trees for removal is to select them

the year previous, prune back the tops somewhat and dig a trench around the tree, cutting off all lateral roots, then throw the earth back into the trench again. This will encourage a new growth of roots close to the trunk and they can be moved with the tree. Evergreens can be planted during August, and it is a good plan in removing them to take up a ball of earth with them so that the roots may be disturbed as little as possible. It is a good plan to thoroughly water a tree immediately upon setting it out, as the water will carry the soil into the crevices between the roots and help to compact the earth around them, but beyond this, except in cases of severe drought, I do not think watering is necessary. A mulch of leaves, straw or coarse manure will conserve the moisture and check the growth of grass, thereby enabling the tree to get the full benefit of all the plant food the soil contains.

Tree Planting for Pleasure and Profit.

"A country without woods is a house without a roof. No peace there! Sun, wind, rain and cold keep everyone in a turmoil."

Every winter most of us make great plans for the following spring, but in the multitude of necessary daily duties those things which are not of immediate necessity are overlooked until it is too late for that season. So it goes on from year to year, and the farm and farmhouse which might have been made more valuable and more homelike by the judicious planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, is, from this point of view, at the end of say ten or fifteen years, usually in about the same condition as it was at the beginning.

Everyone knows that no man is more busy than the average farmer, in spring, and while he is not quite so much rushed in autumn, he is, with the little assistance he can afford, very seldom idle.

It seems to me, however, that the two main causes why more planting is not done on the farm are, 1st, that farmers do not think about doing it at all, and 2nd, that too much is planned beforehand, so that when spring comes, and everyone is busy, tree-planting on an extensive scale is out of the question, and is dropped altogether. If a little were actually done every year, the result would soon be so apparent that planting would be carried on more extensively from year to year.

Why should not each farmer have his "Arbor Day," during which he could do some permanent planting on his place? Native trees and shrubs are usually abundant somewhere in nearly every farmer's vicinity, but if these cannot be got, fine nursery-grown trees can now be had for very little. Better plant one tree than none at all.

The principal reasons why a farmer should grow trees on his farm are that he may have them for fuel, timber, windbreaks, ornaments for the home grounds and avenue purposes, while at the same time there will be produced fruit, nuts and syrup,

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