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# Location of Farm Buildings.

When the necessity of building new houses or To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate": new barns, or both, forces itself upon one, considerable enquiry and study is given to the arrangement of the details of the plans. This is right. There is, however, another factor that is often neglected, and the consequences of this neglect often mar the otherwise satisfactory arrangements of the best of plans. We allude to the relative positions of the house and barn to the road, and to each other, and to the use of the yard between house and barn. This question is decided in many instances by some peculiarity of landscape—a hill, stream, valley, etc.—but in the great majority of cases, where the buildings are situated upon fairly level ground, their relative positions seems to have had no consideration whatever.

Before finally deciding upon the exact location of any proposed new building, a definite plan of the grounds and yards should be formed, so that the advantages and disadvantages of any particular location may be weighed. The first consideration should be the nearness of the buildings to water supply, other permanent buildings, the middle of the farm or the main road. After these details are settled, and their settlement will depend upon so many different circumstances that no hard and fast rule can be laid down, comes the arrangement of the general positions of the house and barn. In this connection there are a few principles that should be observed, the first of which is this, that the house should not be situated on the same side of the barn as is the barnyard, chiefly because it makes provision for a grassy plot at the rear of the house, and allows of a clear passage from the house to the barn without the interruption of gates, and insures much cleaner conditions, fewer flies, freedom from offensive odors, dust, etc.

Another consideration is the position of the house with regard to approaches, and the extent of front lawn. For convenience, the approach to the house from the main road should pass by the front door, or very close to it, and also by a side door into kitchen or living room. This arrangement is found convenient, not only for the advantage of entering at the front door, which, by the way, in many houses is merely ornamental, but also for supplying the house with flour, coal, groceries, etc.

The advantages enumerated are of a practical nature. There are still others that might be classed as æsthetical; that is, they appeal to the senses as beautiful, or as harmonizing with their surroundings. Under this head comes the question of the location of the buildings to afford an attractive front lawn. It is well not to attempt too much. A small lawn well kept is infinitely better than a large neglected field. In these days of strenuous living the less care and moving a lawn requires the more satisfactory it will be. Just how to secure considerable green sward about the house without entailing much labor is the problem of securing the most pleasant home surroundings. Some have solved it in the Old Country, and in old-settled districts, by having planted many years ago evergreen hedges and trees that have grown to a considerable size, and by sown short growing grasses, and it would seem that to reach the desired end the best way would be to follow the example set by these successful ones. The effect of the shade of the trees is to make the grass still shorter and finer, and, consequently, a fine turf is secured. Before such planting is done, it is well to have the borders of the grounds well defined by rows or clumps of trees of mixed varieties, always being careful in the planting not to entirely exclude the view from the house to the road, or other interesting objects. When the boundaries have been determined then the grounds proper may be arranged. Beginning at the house, have the whole lawn as free from unevennesses as possible. Except for the driveway to the side or front door, the whole should be perfectly level and sown with short, fine grasses. Upon this lawn a few of the best shade trees, such as maples, elms, oak, beech, etc., should be set with a studied attempt at

indiscriminate arrangement. With a little attention to these matters, which are so generally termed after considerations, much can be accomplished by way of making farms more convenient and attractive, and, consequently, more valuable, not to mention the elevating influence imparted, where every detail of the home and farm is in the best possible harmony.

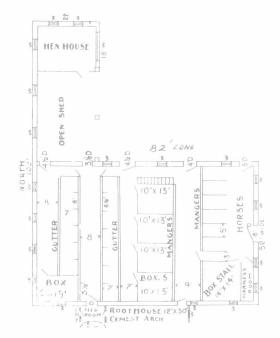
## Twice as Valuable.

Please find enclosed one dollar and a half for  $\overline{my}$  subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate" for 1904. I like your paper very much, and think it will surely be twice as valuable since it is to be published weekly. I think there is no

other farm paper equal to it. Prince Edward Co. S. T. STEWART.

### An Oxford County Barn Plan.

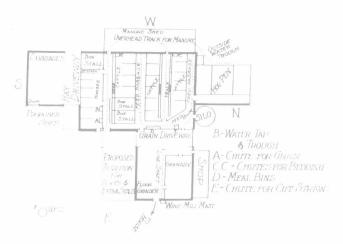
Dear Sir,-Being engaged in the building line in the Counties of Middlesex and Oxford, and most of our work being barns, hogpens and silos for farmers, it is but natural I should take a great interest in the plans which appear from time to time in your valuable farm journal. Am



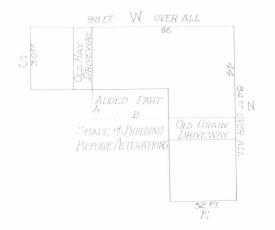
enclosing you a plan which has given good satisfaction, but do not claim that it will suit all farmers, as barn plans must differ according to the class of farming followed. This one is on a 125-acre farm, the owner of which keeps about 12 to 14 dairy cows, 6 to 8 registered Shorthorns, quite a number of young store cattle, and raises a few horses each year. I do not think it would be suitable for an extensive dairy farm. Oxford Co. R. O.

### Remodelling an Old Barn.

About three years ago, a farm came into my hands that had a barn 98 ft. long by 30 wide, with another running at right angles to this, 84 x 32. The problem was to remodel this at least expense, into a barn with modern stables and modern conveniences. I first lifted the whole structure, and put under a stone wall eight feet high, adding, however, a lintel at A-B to give me more room for stables. I then lowered all the mows to the barn sills; so, except a four-foot space above



the driveways, I have the whole barn, from sills to roof, for mow room. The barns are on level ground, and, as I had a prejudice to hauling everything up bridges into the barn, I have my driveways on the level ground. All grain and hay, etc., are unloaded by hay carriers and slings, so the extra height made no difference. The whole floor of stables, barn and



piggery, is cemented, except the carriage room. placed a windmill at the east end of the barn, bolted to the end post, and supported also by stay rods. A line shaft runs into the barn, driving floor grinder, cuttingbox, pump, and other machinery. After the grain is in, we lower the poles over the grain driveway and set

the cutting-box on this, so that the cut feed may drop right into the feed-room if we so desire. The water is drawn from a well outside, and forced up into tanks overhead, whence it is conducted to each stall, and, also, a tap and trough are placed behind the horses so they may be watered by simply letting them loose For summer use, a pipe, regulated by the same float, conveys water to a trough situated in the back lane I built a silo, moved pigpen, built a manure-shed to the west, where all horse, cow and pig litter are taken and mixed before removing to the field. The door of the hogpen is so placed I can leave it open and give extra heat of stables to them. The silo is so placed that the ensilage falls almost into the feed-room, as does the cut straw. An overhead track runs in front of each line of cattle, and passes through the feed-On this runs a car that takes all food to the cattle in boxes, ready measured, if one so desires. Another track of the same kind runs down behind the cattle and horses, and out under the manure-shed, and along the piggery, and carries out all the manure and dumps it under the shed or into wagons or sleighs. The drops run towards the manure-shed, so I lose none of the liquid manure. Chutes drop bedding behind cattle and horses. This I prefer cut. Horses are fed hay through chutes from above. Grain bins are above, with chutes to bring it down behind the horses. purpose adding two more lintels, where dotted lines indicate, for additional stable room and roots. The south lintel will furnish an open shed for wagons, etc., for protection.

By this method I saved all my roofage, and secured a square for stables 66 x 44. I have 19 windows 3 x 4, so I have plenty of light; and the stables are

The granary is on the ground floor, but is kept dry by an air-space between floor and cement, and between sides and stone wall.

All the water from the roof is conducted to the tanks, which are situated over the cattle box stalls, so the water never freezes. All the manure is on the west side, on the side opposite to the house, so there is no litter to pass through to reach the barns. Teams can reach their stables without going outside, from either driveway, in case of a storm.

LYMAN C. SMITH.

#### Cement Concrete Silos.

Mr. W. H. Walker, M.P.P., Huntingdon Co., P.Q., writes requesting that information be published from readers who have had experience with cement concrete silos. Will readers who have used such silos write us saying how long, shape, dimensions, cost, what kind of roof, number of tons held, how the silage was preserved, and if satisiactory or defective in any way. If necessary, this information could all be put upon a post card, but if additional facts of value should be stated, describing how built, etc., then use a let-We request that this information be sent us by an early mail, so that farmers who purpose building silos next season can lay their plans now and secure the materials.

## Farm-reared Boys.

The reason why farm-reared boys achieve success in all lines of business and the professions is not far to seek. It is due primarily to the habits of industry and thrift and self-reliance which they acquire in youth and retain through manhood. The farm boy learns to get up early, and if there be any one of those proverbial fat worms around, this bright bird is apt to catch it. He has half a day's work done before the city boy has left his downy couch. As he rises early, so he retires at a seemly hour, healthily wearied with his work, and in condition to enjoy "nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," as only a tired country boy knows how. He grows up strong, healthy and energetic, and, best of all, has that best equipment for worldly success, a sound mind in a sound body.-[Ex.

## Telephones and Rural Mail.

Free rural mail delivery has extended marvellously throughout the United States during the last two years. Now the Postal Department at Washington is asking for an appropriation to investigate the feasibility of using the telephone in communicating specialdelivery letters to those who live along rural routes. In New York City, the sacks of mail are sent whirling through pneumatic pipes direct from the post office to the car, and returned in the same manner. The freedelivery department is said to be expanding more rapidly than any department of the service.

# The Best Adviser.

Please find enclosed the sum of one dollar and fifty cents for year's subscription to weekly "Farmer's Advocate." I took the "Advocate" when but a small paper printed once a month, and was well satisfied with a good dollar's worth; then we were treated to two papers a month for the dollar, and now we surely should rejoice to get the best farmers' adviser and instructor printed on this side of the ocean once a week for only \$1.50 per year. Wishing you a prosperous and Happy New Year.

Kent Co., Ont. ROBERT L. JARVIS & BRO.