

A MANITOBA COW HOUSE.

The following article, from the pen of Mr. J. S. Ireland, of West Lynne, and the accompanying illustrations appeared in the columns of our excellent contemporary the *Nor'-West Farmer* in reply to a request for a plan of a cow stable suitable to the requirements of the country, and as many readers of the *RURAL CANADIAN* have settled in Manitoba, and others are contemplating moving there at an early date, the article and plans are reproduced here for the benefit of whom it may concern:—

"As no particulars are given as regards height of walls, pitch of roof, and the kind of floor to be used, all of which are necessary to be known in estimating the cost of construction, I take it for granted that the building is to be built in a substantial manner, using no surplus material, and as cheap as may be consistent with strength and durability. I send you a plan of a stable that is convenient, and suited to the wants and requirements of the majority of farmers in the Prairie Province.

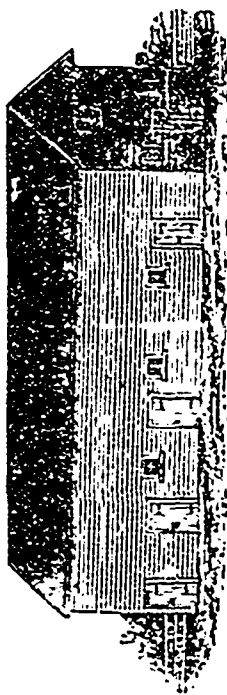


Fig. 1.

"Fig. 1 is a front and end view of the stable; size, 60 feet by 30 feet, 14 feet height of walls, and 18 inches thick, with four doors in front, one entering behind each row of cattle, and one into passage-way; two in the end, one entering into meal or storage room, and one into the loft or mow over the cattle. Three small windows in front and two in the end, to admit light into passage-ways and stable; the window frames should be set into the walls, and the concrete built over them. Double windows should be used, that is, one placed near the inside of the frame, and the other near the outside. When the windows are single, the breath from the cattle in cold weather freezes on them so thick that it makes them, in a measure, opaque. The inside sash may be hung on a pivot in the centre, so as to open easily to give ventilation in the spring and summer seasons, when the stock is required to be stabled, and the outside one can be taken out, and a mosquito bar put in its place. The doors are hung on hinges; they are cheaper, and better adapted to the country than slide doors.

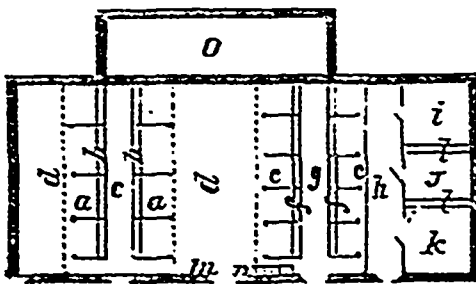


Fig. 2.

"Fig. 2 shows the plan of cattle floor, which contains eighteen double stalls, with ample accommodation for thirty-six head of cattle, besides

calf house, meal or store room, and one loose box or fws at calving time, or an extra calf pen, if required; a. a. cattle stalls, six feet four inches in width from centre to centre, and eleven feet in length from the passage-way c. in front, to the wall behind the cows on the one side, and the same distance from the passage to the manure dropped on the other side; b. b. is a manger, twenty inches high from the floor, two feet wide on top, and one foot six inches in the bottom. The top of the manger is formed of three by six scantling, running the width of the stalls, and from the scantling to the floor of inch lumber, made tight and close at the bottom for feeding meal, or a small box at each side of the stalls can be made for that purpose. c. passage-way, in front of cows to feed from, four feet wide and boarded up, three feet six inches. d. d. manure drops. The stalls described are for large-sized cows. e. e. are stalls for smaller-sized cows or young cattle, five feet centre to centre, and ten feet from passage-way to the partitions on one side, and the same distance to the centre of manure drop, d., on the other. f. f. are mangers, the same as d. d. g. passage-way, the same as c. h. is manure drop, i. calf house, j. meal room, k. loose box, l. l. mangers, m. side passage, n. ladder to loft. O. shows the position of a root house that can be built, if required, and entered from the stable by the passage-ways. The partitions between the stalls are six feet long, and four feet four inches high, boarded up with two inch plank, each partition requiring four pieces of two by six plank spiked to the studding, the two top pieces having a small bolt through each end, making them firm and secure.

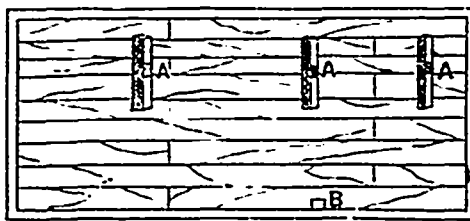


Fig. 3.

"Fig. 3 is a hay loft, A. A. are feed shoots for delivering hay into centre of passage-way. The hay can be thrown in at the tops, or through small doors in the sides, according to the height of hay in the mow. B., entrance to loft from passage below; A., shoot, the same as A. A., to deliver hay into feed room for calf pen and loose box.

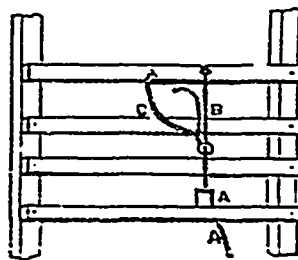


Fig. 4.

"Fig. 4 shows stall partition, and manner of tying cows, A. A., end view of manger. B., a two-inch round stake, the bottom end left into top piece of the manger, and the other end bolted to the top bar of stall partition; c. is a chain, to slide up and down on the stake. Instead of stakes, rods of inch iron can be used, fourteen inches long, and bolted on the stall partitions for the chains to slide on, but they would add eighteen dollars to the cost of the building, and the stakes answer equally as well. The partitions are boarded up five feet high. Height of stable, seven feet from floor to loft; the upper floor is laid with inch lumber; if poles are used instead of lumber for the upper floor, it will lessen the cost in the estimate about thirty dollars.

QUANTITY OF LUMBER REQUIRED.

17	pieces,	2x8—30 feet long—630 feet, for joists.
4	"	2x10—30 feet long—200 feet for plates.
22	"	2x6—8 feet long—396 feet for rafters.
3	"	3x8—26 feet long—78 feet for mangers.
55	"	2x6—12 feet long—672 feet for collar beams and stall partitions.
40	"	2x4—14 feet long—396 feet for studding.
14	"	2x8—12 feet long—224 feet for windows and door frames.
3	"	3x14—12 feet long—56 feet for calf mangers.

Inch lumber, 14 feet long	1,886
" 12 "	9,512
Total number of feet	7,600

ESTIMATE COST.

7,600 feet of lumber, at \$30 per thousand	\$228
24,000 shingles, at \$4 50 per thousand	108
4,140 cubic feet of concrete, at 15 cents per foot	621
Nails and hinges	30
Windows	6
Carpenters' work	100

Total cost \$1,083

"I have made no estimate of kind of floor to be used, as lumber and other materials are expensive. And as D. S. is in the neighbourhood where stone is plentiful, a floor paved with stone will be the cheapest and best floor for him to make, and he can do the paving himself at spare times, and the cost will be small. He can also change the plan as regards width of stalls, passage-ways, ventilation, etc., if necessary, for no person can possibly know so well what an individual wants as himself, if he be a reflecting man."

HOUSE SLOPS.

An economical farmer says: "This is what I do with my slops: I have most of it carried and thrown on to the stable manure, which is under cover. This makes the manure in better order for use in three months than it otherwise would be in nine months. I also keep a box or barrel near the kitchen packed full of the short straw and dust such as comes from a fanning mill, etc. Into this barrel or box are thrown small quantities of wash and dishwater. The water drains through, leaving the substance in the straw and dust. When it is fully charged, I move it away and supply another box. You will be surprised to see what a valuable feeder you will acquire during the year. This substance is generally thrown on the ground, which finds its way into the well, is drank, and followed by sickness in the family."

We would advise immigrants to this country to dispose of the most of their effects below, and bring the cash here. They will find they can suit themselves better by buying here, as agricultural implements and settlers' effects can be purchased here at almost the same rates as in Ontario. It would not be amiss, however, to bring horses and cattle, and when doing so they should get the best that is to be had. There is just as much freight on a poor animal as on a thoroughbred.—*Nor'-West Farmer*.

It has frequently been stated that the farmers in the North-West do not use manure on the land, but this is not the case in every instance. While in many cases it may not be necessary, and even injurious to the crops, to manure the land, in others it may be advisable. But in one case in Kildonan, a field has yielded wheat for fifty consecutive years without a particle of manure. Farmers should study their land as a student would his book, and they will reap a rich reward.

As the autumn approaches and the long nights come on, the farmer, as well as the man of any other occupation, begins to provide himself with reading matter, by means of which he is able to pleasantly and profitably spend the time which, if squandered, would be of no avail to himself. There are many things for the parent to take into consideration now, in making selection of literature for the winter. Cold weather is a time when children can contentedly fasten their attention upon books and papers. Through the hot days of summer there is a greater tendency to play, while through the long, cold winter, mind is more active, retentive, and eager for knowledge. Such books and papers as will best educate are the ones that should be selected. This thing should be looked into, as it is a great and grave error to neglect to provide that which will act as food for the mind at a time when that mind is the most hungry for such food, and must be thus fed or suffer a great and lasting loss thereby.—*Nor'-West Farmer*.