

### Round Barn with Central Silo.

The desire for convenience in barn construction and arrangement has called forth much originality. One of the latest types of barns that as a consequence has been evolved is the round barn. Such a barn is just being completed by Wilson McCready.

Having a brickyard of his own, Mr. McCready has been able to indulge himself in the use of hollow brick for the entire height of all his walls, but economy would prevent such as a general practice.

This barn is especially interesting for its silo, its internal plan, and for the problems which it presents. The silo is in the center of the barn, is built of hollow brick, like the barn, is round; measures on the inside 10 feet in diameter, and is 45 feet high. The wall of the silo is 14 inches thick for the first 11 feet, after that 9½ inches. It is strengthened by the joists of the floor butting against it at a height of 12 feet. If properly reinforced, this should make an excellent silo. The type of silo now much advocated in Iowa is constructed of this material.

The plan provides for all live stock, as in a basement barn. The outside circumference of the barn is 181 ft. 6 in., and the wall is 14 in. thick. The silo occupies a circular space in the center 12 ft. 4 in. in diameter. Between these two circles the stock is arranged. The basement is divided by brick walls into four compartments. In one is to be room for six horses; another is a small carriage-room; a third is to contain three pigs about 10 x 12 ft., the fourth compartment provides for eighteen cattle. All stock are headed toward the alleyway, which is to be 8½ ft. wide around the silo. Doors lead from one compartment to the other both in the alleyway and again at the rear of the stock.

Ventilation is provided for on the basis of the King system. Light in the stable seems to be well provided by a generous number of large windows.

The roof of the barn rests on and forms the roof of the silo. There are no windows in the barn, but a number of 18-in. tile placed in the wall serve the purpose of windows. There are a few problems in such an arrangement. A silo needs to be conveniently gotten at at filling time, which is difficult to accomplish when it is in the center of the barn. Threshing outfits also require considerable room. There are attractive features about such a barn, but those to whom they appeal must study the details of their plans.

### Plank-frame Barn.

The increasing scarcity of framing timber in many localities, and its expensiveness where still obtainable, makes the plank-frame barn of interest to a greater number each year. During the early part of this season, William Martin, of Belmont, Elgin Co., Ont., having occasion to tear down the old barns and build greater, erected a building of this newer type. His barn proper is 40 x 76 ft., with an L 32 x 46 ft., the latter not being plank-frame, but old-frame material. It is built upon a concrete block wall that is 7 ft. 6 in. high, and in turn has a solid concrete foundation, which, together, will place the floor of the barn about 9 ft. 6 in. above the level of the ground. The corner-posts are 16 ft. high. There are no posts in the interior of the barn, the purlines being supported by a truss construction from each post of the side wall. The posts are made from two planks spiked in regular plank-frame fashion. The entire barn is bound together so that lateral pressure will not cause any bulging, by a strong iron rod in each end of the barn, from plate to plate, and by four special trusses similar to those supporting the purlines, but more strongly built, and bolted together beneath the peak of the barn. Planks 2 x 10 in. are used throughout in the frame.

The barn is very convenient. There are no interior posts or cross-beams; the trusses supporting the purlines are so near the sides of the barn as to be little or no obstruction.

It is an economic barn. The lumber to complete the frame cost \$246, which, according to estimates for this and for other barns, is considerably less than the complete timber frame would cost. It costs much less to erect. One man, in seven days, with two assistants for one day, and the aid of five men for one day, had the barn ready for the carpenters to close in. True, such a barn spoils the frame of a "raiser," i. e., such work and risk can be called a frolic, but those who have broken their collarbones erecting purlines will not regret the passing of such planks.

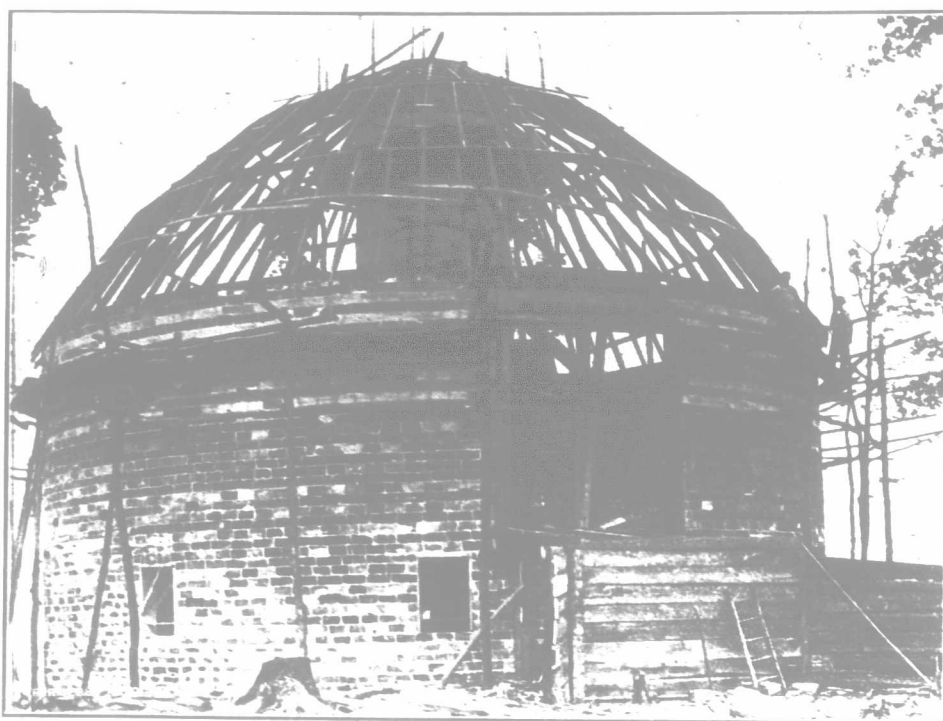
What is the best way to shock grain in round or long shocks? Which way is quicker, and which is better? In case of round shocks, how should they be raised? Answers to these questions are in next

### Duster on Threshing Machines.

I would like to ask through your paper what is the reason we do not see more threshing machines fitted with the dust conveyor? I have only noticed one. I would gladly pay an additional fee to any machine that would keep the barn quite free from dust, which is neither troublesome nor expensive. The straw conveyor is good, but the dust conveyor in another direction is better, and saves men.

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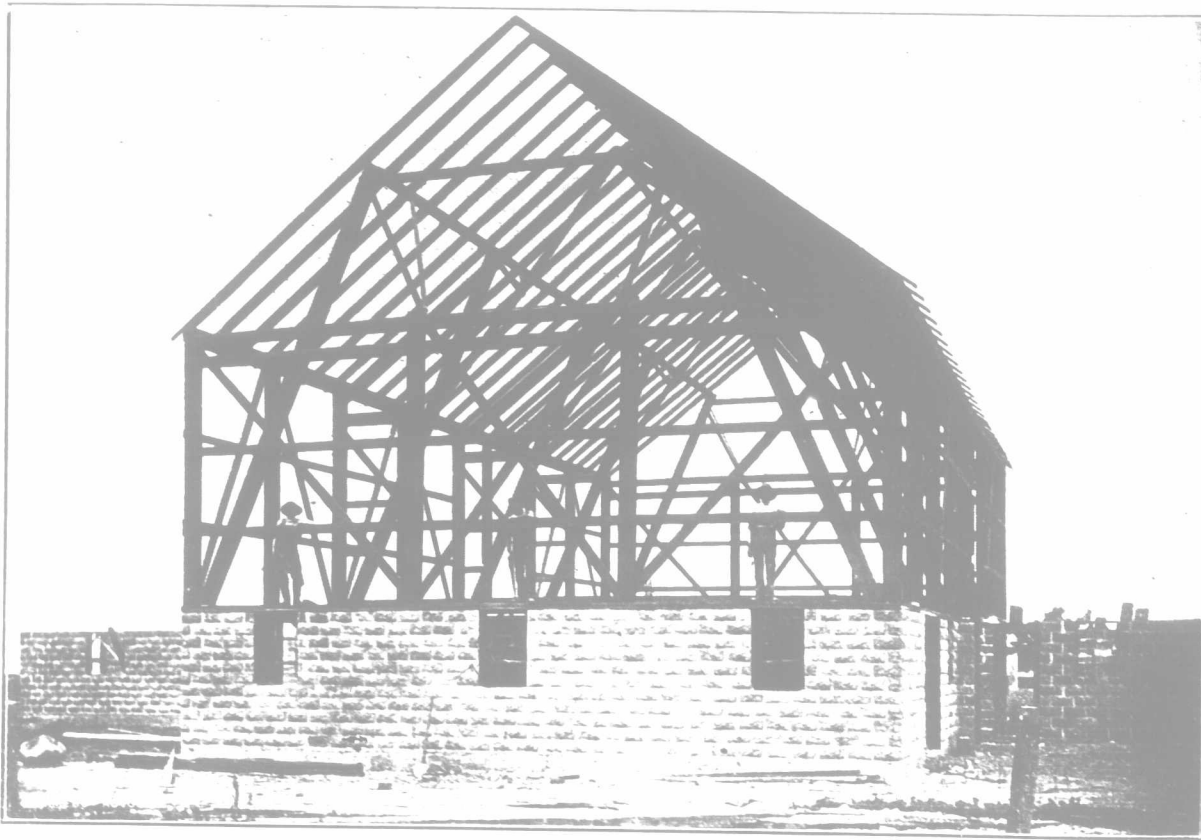
[Note.—This seems to be a question for threshermen. The duster is certainly a good thing, and the cost a mere trifle of twenty or twenty-five dollars. A considerable number of threshers use it,



Circular Barn Built Around a Silo.

but some, it seems, find more or less difficulty in preventing straw going out with the dust; others appear to have no particular trouble. We have often seen dusters working that would take out nothing but the fine, fluffy dust. It is certainly the part of wisdom to patronize an outfit that has the duster, the chaffer, the straw-blower and other modern conveniences. One could well afford to pay a little extra to get his threshing done—Editor.]

Whatever may be one's practice as to the stage at which the general wheat crop is cut, there can be little room for doubt that the portion of the crop from which the following year's seed is taken should be allowed to mature well on the standing straw. In experiments conducted by Pro. C. A. Zavitz, at Guelph, for fourteen years, seed wheat taken from grain cut when quite ripe, produced a greater yield of both grain and straw, and a heavier weight per measured bushel, than that raised from wheat cut at any one of four earlier stages of maturity.



A Plank Frame Ready to Enclose.

### A Spray to Keep Thistles from Seeding.

Showing us over his farm the other day, the proprietor apologetically accounted for the thistles choking the grain in every field, by reminding us that the farm had been rented for several years, until he took it over this spring. "Although," he frankly added, "I don't know that there would be any less thistles if I had been on it myself. They will come in." We afterwards drew from him that he always shocks grain with a fork, and raises no cultivated crop to speak of. When accosted, in the middle of the afternoon, he was lounging in the shade at the house. "It isn't the time to cut thistles," he said, though some of his neighbors were at it.

Now, Canada thistle should not be a very bad weed to control, but with that sort of men in a community, it takes some work to keep a farm clean. The principal difficulty is to keep the thistles from ripening seed in the grain crop. Topping with the scythe at time of coming into bloom is probably the best plan, but sometimes the work crowds, and it is neglected.

The Minnesota Experiment Station reports that spraying with sulphate-of-iron solution, properly applied with force, will destroy the leaves and stems of the weed, and so far hold their growth in check as to prevent the ripening of the seeds. Of course, it does not kill the roots, though it is said to weaken them somewhat. The spray does not hurt the grain, but rather gives it a chance to mature, with less hindrance from the weed. We doubt whether it would pay many Canadian farmers to buy a spray pump merely for the purpose of fighting thistles, but those who have purchased mustard-spraying outfits might try them on thistles, using copper sulphate, instead of iron sulphate, as, at the prices of these two articles in Canada, copper sulphate is the cheaper, difference in strength considered. Ten-pounds copper sulphate to the 40-gallon barrel is the quantity recommended for mustard. For thistles, a little more might be tried, though not much more, for fear of injuring the grain. We should be pleased to hear from any who may see fit to try this experiment.

The amount of alfalfa seed sold to farmers during the past spring months has considerably exceeded that of any previous year. The inspectors