

THOUGHTS ON BUSINESS

BY
WALDO PONDRAY WARREN

SELECTING A MAN

PICKING out the right man for the place, it often measures the difference between success and failure in a business. More often it measures the difference between a moderate success and a phenomenal one.

Twenty or more years ago a carriage factory was started with the idea of doing things in an original way, and a man was chosen to carry out the idea. He had had no previous experience in that line, but he had the right idea and grasped the plan enthusiastically. The work began on a simple scale, so that the inexperienced man was able to feel his way. The business grew until it attained great proportions. The same man is still at the head of it, not as the owner, but as the manager. He proved to be the right man for the place. It would be difficult to imagine how he might have made the business more successful in that particular line.

In thinking of this the thought occurred to me, suppose some other man had been chosen in the beginning. Suppose he had had wide experience, but a different idea. He might have made more rapid progress at the start, or he might have turned the whole business into other channels and have given it a different character. He might not have been able to grow up with it, or might have left it after the first year's trial. The present greatness of the business might have been unknown to-day if it hadn't been that the right man was chosen when the business was small.

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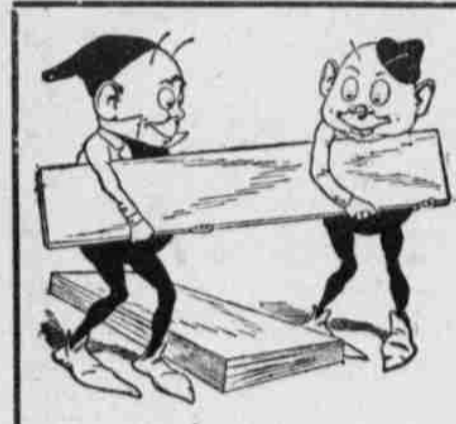
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Home Course In Live Stock Farming

II.—Windbreaks and Buildings.

By C. V. GREGORY.

Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture," "Making Money on the Farm," Etc.

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IN most parts of the country it is necessary to provide some sort of shelter for the stock during a considerable portion of the year. Good buildings are expensive, and it takes a number of years to get the farm improved as it should be. By having a definite plan in mind, however, every building that is put up can be made to conform to that plan, and the final results will be much better than if the work had been done at in a haphazard manner.

There is usually a rise of ground somewhere along the road that makes a good building site. Natural drainage is very important, as the yards will be sloppy enough at best in a wet season. The first step after the site has been selected is to provide a good windbreak on the north and west. There is nothing so effective for a windbreak as an evergreen hedge. The best evergreens to use for this purpose are the pines. Of these the Scotch pine is one of the hardest and is also a fairly rapid grower. It does not make as good a windbreak as some of the others, however. The Austrian and bull pines are among the best for windbreaks. White pine is a rapid grower and is very valuable for lumber when it reaches sufficient size. The worst fault with it is that it is rather tender when young. The white



FIG. III.—GOOD INDIVIDUAL HOG HOUSE.

spruce is an excellent windbreak tree, growing rapidly and making a dense hedge. It is of little value for timber purposes, however.

Setting the Windbreak.

Two rows of evergreens are sufficient for an effective windbreak. If set sixteen feet apart, with the trees in the second row opposite the spaces in the first, they will in a few years form a mass that will be practically windproof. Willows, catpaws and other quick growing trees make fair windbreaks and grow up quickly enough to be useful for a number of years before the evergreens are big enough to do any good. Unless planted very thickly, however, much of their effectiveness is lost in the winter at the very time when they are most needed. It is a good practice to plant a few of these quick growing trees outside the evergreens. They will protect both the evergreens and the buildings until the former are large enough to be effective. Then the temporary trees can be cut down for posts and wood. It is sometimes hard to kill willows after they once get a start, but with the aid of a few sheep or goats this can be accomplished.

Little care is needed to get a stand of willow trees, but with evergreens the case is different. A strip of land three or four feet wide, where the row is to be, should be plowed. In the prairie states spring is the best time to transplant. Two to four year old trees are generally used.

The greatest cause of failure with evergreens is allowing the root system to become dry. After the roots are once dry the tree might as well be thrown away, as it will not grow. As soon as the trees are taken from the packing of wet moss in which they are received they should be placed in a pail of water. They should not be removed from this until the hole in which they are to go is dug. Then they should be placed in the hole immediately and covered with fine dirt. It is important to tamp this dirt tightly about the roots. If the soil is packed well enough watering will not be necessary. In most cases the trees will be better off without it. Evergreens should not be cut back in transplanting, as is done with other trees, as this causes uneven growth. If a strip on each side of the trees is cultivated for a few years the trees will grow faster and be more vigorous.

Building Material.

The question of building material is an important one on the farm where there is much building to be done. Lumber is undoubtedly the most convenient and in most cases probably the cheapest also. When durability is considered, however, lumber is inferior to other materials. This is especially true of the quality of lumber that is coming on the market in the last few years.

Cement has been much lauded as a building material. It has many uses and advantages. There is a tendency, however, to overestimate the value of cement and to look at it as the best possible material under all conditions

and circumstances. For doors, walks, tanks, etc., there is nothing better, but for the buildings themselves other materials are just as good as or better than cement. If built solidly enough to be safe and permanent the cost of a cement building is high. The cost of forms amounts to a great deal, and a man who is skilled in handling cement is needed to insure a good job.

A more satisfactory building material in most cases is hollow brick or building tile. These brick can be readily obtained in most sections of the country. The cost is little higher than that of lumber, and they will last as long as cement. A tile building is warmer than a single walled cement one on account of the dead air space in the walls. It takes much less skill to put up a tile building than one of cement, and consequently the cost of construction will be less. For the smaller buildings the tile may be put up edgewise. In building the barn it will be necessary to lay them flatwise up to the hay floor. From there up they may be set on edge. They should be laid in strong cement mortar. Cement blocks may be used in the same manner as the building tile.

Roofs and Floors.

There are many roofing materials that can be used in place of shingles. Some of these can be purchased a little cheaper, but in lasting qualities they are little better than good shingles. The life of shingles can be increased three or four times by treating them with creosote as described in article 1. The only trouble with this is the discomfort of handling the treated shingles.

For floors there is nothing better than cement. Cement floors are much more durable than any other kind and cost only a little more to start with. For the smaller buildings the floor can be built first and the building set on it with no other foundation. Heavy buildings, like barns, should have solid stone foundations. The hog house floor may be built to extend out about twelve feet on each side, thus making a clean feeding floor for the fattening hogs or a sunning place for the early pigs.

The foundation for a cement floor should consist of six inches or more of cinders or gravel. If the location is not high and well drained a line of tile should be laid through this material to carry away any water that may collect. On this foundation a layer of concrete should be laid three to five inches thick, according to the purpose for which the floor is to be used. Horse stable floors need to be much stronger than those for a hog house or machine shed. For most farm purposes the best proportions to mix this concrete are one part cement, three parts clean sand and six parts broken stone or gravel. This should be spread smoothly and tamped. As soon as it has set for a few hours it is ready for the finishing coat.

A finishing or wearing surface is necessary where the floor is subject to much use. It is also smoother and easier to keep clean. It should be made of one part portland cement to one and one-half parts sand and be put on to a depth of from one to one and one-half inches. As soon as it has begun to set it can be grooved into blocks about six inches square to prevent the animals from slipping. The floor should be covered with about an inch of sand and sprinkled daily for two or three weeks, when it will be ready for use.

Cement Tanks.

Cement tanks are durable and comparatively cheap. Several small ones in the different yards, connected with the well or with an elevated tank by underground pipes, are a great convenience. The water in small tanks is changed often and hence is kept fresh. Where the pumping is done by a windmill there is danger of a small tank going dry during a calm, but with a storage tank or a gasoline engine to pump this trouble is eliminated.

A foundation of gravel or cinders should be made much the same as for a floor. Rough boards can be used to make forms. These should be greased on the inside, the concrete mixed to the consistency of jelly and poured in and tamped. Woven wire makes good re-enforcing for small tanks. For larger ones steel rods will be needed. The proper mixture for a concrete tank is eight parts cement, two parts sand and four parts gravel. The side walls should slope outward toward the top.



FIG. IV.—TANK—WILL NOT RUST OR ROT, so that they will not be cracked by ice in winter. After the forms are removed brush the inside of the tank with a paste of pure cement to prevent any leakage.

In locating the buildings keep convenience always in mind and figure to save as many steps in doing chores as possible. Do not have the barn too far away from the house. If you build a silo, have it at the end of the row stable, where most of the silage will be used. Have all the buildings where stock is kept as close together as possible and corners and granaries close to each building. This matter of saving steps is not regarded as carefully as it should be. Every device which lessens the actual labor on a farm is worthy of consideration, and the step saving scheme is by no means trivial.

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