

short storage period, or where maize-growing is not a regular practice on the farm, it provides the grower with a cheap means of housing the crop.

On the larger maize areas, where considerable space is required, it is often the practice to build two long cribs—up to 40 ft. each in length and parallel to one another—under the one gable roof, with sufficient space between them to provide accommodation for the various farm implements. Doors for filling are usually provided at each end, with sliding - doors situated midway down the inner sides of the cribs to provide means for feeding cobs to the sheller, which is usually brought into the implement-space to allow of shelling from both cribs without having to move the machine. These cribs, which have vertical walls, are usually 6 ft. wide, 8 ft. to 9 ft. high, and from 20 ft. to 40 ft. in length. In addition to housing implements the space between the cribs promotes air-currents, which materially assist in the drying of the grain. Arising out of the foregoing type there has also been evolved a single crib similar in all respects to each section of the double crib just described.

It is claimed for this type of crib that owing to the vertical walls there is far less strain on the walls than in the case of the type with tapering sides, and consequently there is no necessity to strengthen the sides with wall supports. Furthermore, greater capacity is claimed without increase in expenditure on timber. A somewhat greater overhang of the roof is necessary, however, to protect the cobs as efficiently from the weather. Various other modifications are occasionally encountered, chief of which perhaps is the single crib built on to the back of an implement-shed; but the great majority conform to one or other of the foregoing types.

RECOMMENDED DESIGNS.

With the object of providing information on the construction and cost of cribs embodying the most desirable features, drawings, specifications, and estimates were recently prepared by the Agriculture and Public Works Departments for the guidance of growers. Two designs were adopted: (1) A combined double crib and implement-shed, for areas up to 18 acres where the crop averages about 50 bushels per acre; (2) a single crib embodying the features of one storage section of the double type, for areas of 6 to 7 acres at a similar crop average. A copy of the first-mentioned design is presented here in reduced form. A full-size sheet of either design may be obtained on application to the Fields Division.

In explanation of the dimensions given for the cribs it should be understood that heights and widths as specified have been arrived at as the most suitable for promoting best drying conditions. Growers with considerable experience regard 6 ft. to 7 ft. as the greatest width that should be employed in any crib. In regard to height there is a greater range of opinion; but even in this respect few successful growers favour heights exceeding 10 ft.; generally 8 ft. is regarded as the most suitable. The length of crib can vary between wide limits, and will depend to a great extent on the quantity of maize to be stored.

The plans and specifications should therefore be regarded more as indicating types to which cribs should conform than as actual standard