

## An Old-Fashioned Barn-Raising.

Owen M. Bruner, of Philadelphia, After Selling Lumber for a Barn, Attends the Raising Thereof, and Presents the Same Pictorially with Interesting Comments for the Delectation of Journal Readers.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., July 6 (Special).—This newspaper has only one fault to find with Mr. Owen M. Bruner, the Philadelphia wholesale lumberman. And the trouble is this: In making a lumberman out of Mr. Bruner they spoiled what otherwise would have been a perfectly good newspaper man. He knows a good item when he sees it, and with his trusty camera along (and it usually is), he also knows how to illustrate the item. A case in point is an old-fashioned barn raising in eastern Pennsylvania. Now barn raising, while it used to be no uncommon thing, has become quite unusual, if not unique. Indirectly it is of interest to the lumber trade because people who build barns use lumber, and that is the reason we got these photographs from Mr. Bruner, because the people depicted therein all happen to be his good friends. Perhaps the barn-raising is best described in Mr. Bruner's own words in a recent letter to this paper, as follows:

"It may seem strange to you that a wholesale lumberman should be engaged in barn raising. But we shipped some long timbers 12x14—55 feet to Bird-in-Hand, Pa., for a large barn, the dimensions of which were 66x86 feet and 47 feet high to the peak of the roof. The barn is located near Ronks Station, Pa., and the farmer's name who put it up was Mr. Joseph H. Esbenschade, one of the richest farmers in Lancaster County. You know that Lancaster County is the Garden Spot of the World, and that Lancaster County stands preeminent as the richest county not only in Pennsylvania, but in the whole United States. Everyone knows about the rich, frugal, hospitable and happy farmers of Lancaster County. Many of them speak the Pennsylvania Dutch language, and in this vicinity these honest German farmers like good, big, commodious barns.

"Barn raising is quite an event with the farmers of Lancaster County. When I returned home someone wanted to know whether the barn was raised by main force or by hard cider. I replied that while the latter was not in evidence, lemonade and a good lunch was furnished during the early hours of the day.

"The farmers gathered from far and near, and there were almost two hundred men there to help raise the barn. It is quite a sight to see forty or fifty men handling a large piece of timber, the tim-

ber being raised on a Hickory stick, with two men at the stick. I expect to send you some photographs showing how the barn raising is done.

"Some of these farmers are as active as cats and as strong as oxen, and it is quite a sight to see how they crawl over the timbers in the air just like squirrels. It would surprise some of the lumberjacks in a sawmill to know how easily these sturdy, healthy, strong farmers can handle a piece of timber.

"When lunch time came it was quite a sight to see the men going to the watering troughs to wash, and then before eating they observed the beautiful sign or token of saying grace. The table was bountifully spread with the riches of the farm fields of Lancaster County. Lima beans, cold slaw, potatoes, corn that has been cut and dried and hung up during the winter is brought out on the table, cheese, good cherry pie, dried peaches, and prunes, plenty of milk and coffee to drink, and the farmers just

waded into it. I only wish the lumbermen of the cities could see what a barn raising looks like. You know that Lancaster County is my childhood home, and to me it was a refreshing scene to visit and share with the German farmers their pleasure of barn raising.

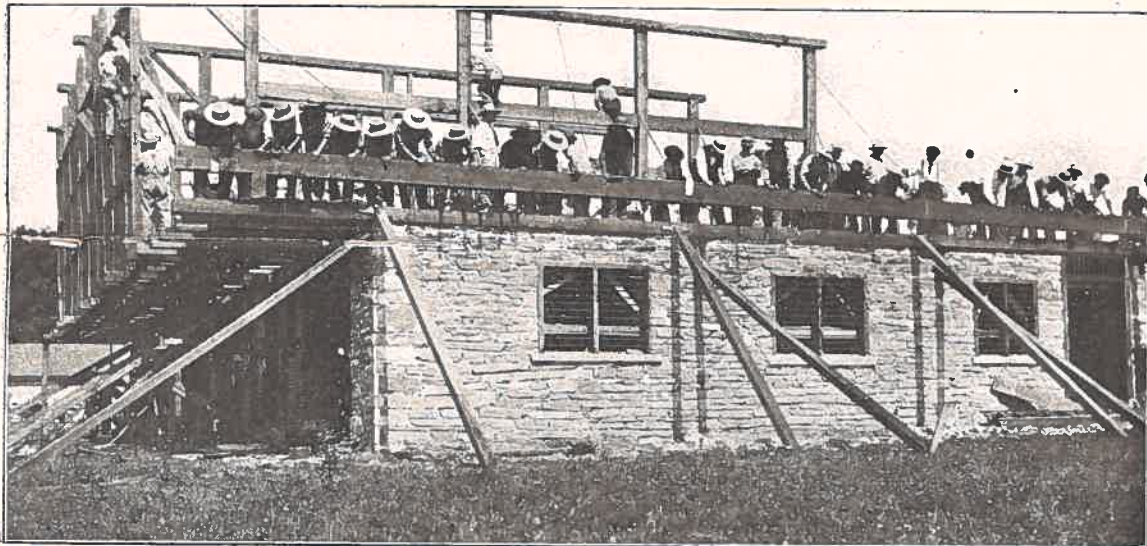
"We sold this lumber to Mr. John Umble of Bird-in-Hand. The carpenter was Mr. W. C. Eckman, and he has put up no less than thirty-two immense barns. Mr. Esbenschade, the farmer who had the barn erected, owns quite a number of farms in Lancaster County.

"Possibly the most active and strongest farmer at the barn raising was Mr. Christian Fisher. He can give many an acrobat of a circus points in nimbleness and suppleness. I wish you could have been there to see how many of these young farmers take pride in helping to raise a barn. In fact, they seem more active than the carpenters whose business it is, and the pleasure and pride of a farmer is to help his neighbors in this way.

"Accompanying me on this trip to Lancaster County were Mr. Samuel Shoemaker, one of the most prominent builders in Philadelphia, who builds dwelling houses by the thousand, and Mr. C. S. Will-



ONE GOOD WAY TO HANDLE BIG TIMBERS.



AN OLD-FASHIONED BARN-RAISING AT BIRD-IN-HAND, PA.

iams, son of Capt. F. B. Williams of Patterson, La., manufacturers of Cypress, so a day spent in Lancaster County was enjoyed by three visitors.

"At this barn raising I met many of my early childhood school friends, for I attended school in the village of Bird-in-Hand. It is some twenty-five years since I lived there, and it was a real treat and pleasure to meet many of my former acquaintances."

A group picture shows the fair hostesses of this barn raising event, of which Mr. Bruner says: "They are good cooks, fine looking ladies and one has to travel far and wide to find a better bevy of loveliness than the ladies who served us the excellent meals on this occasion"; all of which is borne out by the group picture and the letterpress.

Note that the cut showing the large group explains itself. The four men seen in the other cut, from left to right, are Owen M. Bruner, wholesale lumberman, Philadelphia; Joseph H. Esbenschade, the farmer building the barn; John A. Umble, retail lumberman at Bird-in-Hand, who sold the lumber to Mr. Esbenschade, and W. C. Eckman, the carpenter on the job, the three latter being old-time associates of Mr. Bruner in boyhood's happy days. Even the name of the place, Bird-in-Hand, which is out on the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has a pleasing sound, and the whole story has the flavor of "good old times" that are rapidly passing away.



A GROUP OF LEADERS IN THE BARN-RAISING.



GROUP OF HOSTESSES AT THE BARN RAISING.