all cases be perfectly independent, heated by separate stoves, so that one or both can be used at pleasure at any time.

As before remarked, the hop stove is an immense affair, capable of receiving ordinary cord-wood, and as a high temperature must be constantly maintained during the process of drying, is constructed without especial reference to economy in fuel. This last should be the best quality of wood, thoroughly seasoned, as it is a great mistake to suppose that any kind of wood will do to dry hops with. Probably, however, that where coal is procurable, the desired object would be readily attained with a much smaller heater. The stove, pipe and chimney should be so arranged as to prevent smoking, or the flavor of the hops might be injured. The fumes of sulphur, which often find their way out through the best stoves where bituminous coal is used, would be no injury. We have already spoken of the manner in which the pipes are arranged, and given the reason for it, but I wish to add that they should not come nearer than four feet to any wood, as the high temperature maintained for hours would render them dangerous. Great care should also be taken in the construction of the chimney, and where it passes through wood it would be well to construct it of double-thickness of brick.

The building above described should be set on a stone or brick foundation, eighteen inches to two feet high, and there should be at least sixteen feet space from the ground to the kiln cloth.

By drying night and day, forty-five boxes to the kiln, the hops from ten acres of ground, yielding two thousand pounds to the acre, (a very large yield,) may be dried in twenty days.

RIPENING OF THE HOPS.

It is a matter of importance to know when the crop is fit to pick. If picked too soon the hops will be found deficient in lupulin, and, consequently, less valuable as well as much lighter; while, if allowed to stand too long, they are liable to rust, and the scales of the strobiles to shell off. To ascertain when a yard is fit to pick, select a number of hops from various parts thereof, and pick them in pieces. Near the core or stem several small seeds will be found. If these seeds, when freed from the purple pulp which surrounds them, are black or brown, and contains white meat, the hops are ready to pick.

PREPARATIONS FOR PICKING.

The labor of picking hops is mostly performed by women and children, and in the hop region, no lady, however refined or wealthy, considers herself at liberty to decline to assist in securing the great staple, unless other duties imperatively forbid. And in truth it is necessary they should help, when every available matron, maid, lass and lad within a hundred miles has been pressed into the service, and thousands brought from the lake cities and from points in other States.

The hop-growers should secure sufficient help in advance of the
time for commencing to pick, to enable them to complete the work within three weeks, for the hops are usually not ripe in this latitude before the first of September, and when once ripe they rapidly deteriorate. Experienced pickers average, one with another, about two and one-half boxes each per day, some few picking four to five boxes, while many more do not exceed two boxes. Therefore, if the grower designs to dry but one kiln of forty-five boxes per day, he should engage about sixteen pickers; while if he is to dry two kilns per day, he will need double that number. It will, of course, also be necessary to make due preparation to board and lodge the help thus engaged, which is no small item in the expense of hop-farming. These and many other things will, however, naturally occur to the new beginners.

BOXES.

The number of hop boxes which should be provided depends upon the number of pickers to be employed, for there must be one to each picker. The hop box is generally estimated to contain seven bushels, but the one legalized by statute in this State is three feet long, two feet high, and eighteen inches wide, which will hold a trifle over seven bushels. These boxes are not made singly, however, but a box is made sufficiently large to divide into four compartments of this size. These four boxes, in one, are called "gangs." The "gang" should be made of some light, half-inch lumber, in order that it may be moved from place to place without too much trouble. The top board on each side should be six inches wide; the next one, the same width, should project about eighteen inches at each end, and should be of inch lumber. These projections may be shaved to one's liking, and serve as handles to move it by. At each end a board projects some two feet above the box, with holes through which a pole can be placed when in use to support the hop-poles while the pickers are at work. In constructing the "gang," light corner posts should be used, which should project six or eight inches to serve as legs. They are not shown in the following cut, which, in other respects, is correct.

 Setting boxes.

A day or two before commencing to pick it will be well to set the boxes in their proper position in the yard. For the purpose of illus-