The harvesting of silage crops as carried on according to methods in use at the present time is a very laborious process. In relation to the work accomplished the amount of "hand" labor used is very high compared with that used in some older farm practices. The different operations employed in harvesting the standing crop of corn or of other silage crops, are, essentially, the same as for harvesting small grains, where the binder system is used; though the nature of the work performed by the silage cutter and the thrasher are fundamentally different. Both kinds of crops are harvested by binding, by loading on to wagons, and by feeding into their respective machines; operations which, considered as a whole, entail a great deal of manual labor, some of which is very strenuous.

In the western states, the favorable weather at harvest time according to Davidson and Chase (1), Hendry (3), and Hunt (5) gives opportunity for the use of less arduous methods of harvesting small grains. The grain in a dead ripe condition can stand in the field with practically no deterioration for eight to ten weeks during the warm, rainless summers. In these regions a practice of grain farming has been developed which takes advantage of the favorable climate by the use of the combined harvester-thrasher. This machine as it is hauled through the fields cuts the dry, ripe heads from the standing grain, conveying them directly into the thrasher cylinder. The results accomplished are the same as those obtained by the binder-stationary thrashing method; but with the substitution of heading for the operations of binding, shocking, loading, and machine feeding with their attendant hand and horse labor. Thus thrashing is done without the use of any of the expensive