MAKE THE BUILDINGS COMFORTABLE

Some Precaution That Will Do This and Also Save Fuel.

Many home owners suffer more discomfort in winter than is necessary if they would take a little time and trouble to cut off some of the easily remedied heat wastes. In many cases no money at all will be required, or if a small outlay is necessary, it will be more than repaid in the fuel saved and in the greater comfort secured. Cost of this work can be done by the farmer himself at odd times.

KEEPING THE FLOORS WARM.

One would think that any house owner would know enough to keep the cold winter wind from howling up under his floors, and yet many homes suffer under just such a handicap. No amount of fuel can keep such floors warm, and it is difficult to keep the lower rooms even comfortable. Ventilation under the floor is all right in summer, but neither necessary nor desirable in winter.

With open foundations a good layer of some kind of insulation, put on the under side of the floor joists, and all joints made tight so the wind cannot get in, will make a wonderful difference in the warmth of the floors, and will be well worth while. However, if the foundation is closed, grills and ventilators are closed up, heavy tarred paper, or half-ply roofing fastened with laths on the foundation and lower part of wall, and then banked up with earth, straw, fodder, or something of this sort, there will be little chance for the cold to get in, and insulation under the floors will hardly be needed. My experience has been that piling snow against the basement walls does very little good, because the snow melts back from the wall a little, and this open space seems to let the cold in almost as though the snow was not there.

DOORS AND WINDOWS.

Windows, by all means should have good storm sash, a comfort which is almost universal in city homes, but for some reason is not nearly so common with farm homes as it should be. Storm sash has the advantage, not only of keeping out cold and saving fuel, but of preventing the windows from frosting over. A strip of felt, such as can be bought at any hardware or ten-cent store, tacked around the outside edge of the inner face of the storm sash where they set against the frames, will double their effectiveness. The door openings need protection even worse than the windows, since they are larger and must be opened and closed frequently. Good storm doors are well worth while, especially if they have the additional felt protection. If a storm door is not available, covering the screen door with half-ply roofing will help a lot in keeping out cold.

Weather stripping the windows and doors is one of the most effective methods of keeping out the cold and smoke and dust. The best of these are of metal and require a carpenter's services for removing the windows and cutting the necessary grooves. These also have the advantages of preventing the windows from rattling, and yet of allowing them to fit loosely enough so that they will always slide up and down easily. Cheaper types are available in the form of insulation rolls which are tacked on the inside of the windows, just as they are, and these also keep out dust and dirt well.

INSULATION OVER CEILING.

There is one simple remedy for cold and uncomfortable homes which should always receive very careful consideration. This is the matter of insluation at the ceilings, where by far the greatest loss of heat occurs. Most of the present homes were built with nothing overhead but lath and plaster, which allows the heat to leak through almost as well as though it were sheet iron. One way of remedying such a condition is to put insulating material between the joists, then put on half-ply roofing and tight flooring on top of them, thus making the attic usable for storage or for sleeping rooms if desired. If it is not desired to use the attic, one can put a layer of insulating lumber, plaster board, or something of this kind, on top of the ceiling joists, and then later put the floor on top of that, if a floor is desired.

How Much to Cull.

The art of picking out the non-laying birds in a flock of fowls is probably well known to most every one raising poultry, but the importance of putting the knowledge into practice is not appreciated in many instances. A survey of the practice of commercial poultrymen in New Jersey during the past four years shows that on the average about one-half of the flock is disposed of every year.

This seems rather high on first thought, but when one remembers that a non-layer in June, July, August or September will loaf on the job, so to speak, until late winter or early spring, one can hardly blame the commercial poultryman for disposing of her. He fills the vacancy with laying pullets. The usual practice is to begin culling when the production falls below 50 per cent., and cull the flock every week or two from then on until October. The average amount of culling by months on New Jersey farms during the past four years, and the number of eggs laid daily, are shown in the following table:

Month	Per cent. culled	Per cent. production
June	6	51
July	10	49
August	14	46
September	16	35
October	16	18

(Culling is frequently continued until November. In fact, some poultrymen practice culling throughout the year, removing undesirables as they are found.—Editor.)

The foregoing table is not meant to be used as a rule to go by, but rather as a guide toward good management. For instance, if one had to cull out 10 per cent. in June and 15 per cent. in July in order to maintain a 50 per cent. production, he would have every reason to believe that something was wrong. The birds might be losing weight due to improper feeding, or they might be affected by lice and mites. Whatever the cause, the thing to do would be to remedy the trouble another season. If the production noted above could be obtained with less culling than has been practiced, well and good. It would indicate good management or good stock. Efficient management is the keynote of successful egg production.—C. S. Platt in The Farm Journal.

Carry a Note Book.

A pocket note-book has proven a time and money-saver on my farm. I go over each implement or piece of machinery when I put it under shelter; if there's a missing bolt or a lost nut, if the drag harrow has a tooth gone or a cog is broken in the cotton planter, I make a note of it, stating the size, the implement and the make. The first trip to town, instead of loafing around the barber shop, I visited the hardware store and, referring to my note-book, I get the parts necessary to make the repairs. Sometimes the parts have to be ordered from the manufacturer. The next rainy day, I visit my workshop and put those implements in good working order, so when the rush season is on I won't have expensive delays. Time is money, you know.—R.

Crop Rotation.

The Department of Agriculture has just issued a comprehensive bulletin on crop rotation and soil management for Eastern Canada that should be in the hands of every farmer from Ontario to Prince Edward Island. The authoritative information contained in the bulletin, which may be obtained free from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, is the result of many years of scientific experiment and research conducted on the Experimental Farms of the eastern provinces.

It is becoming more and more clear that crop rotations are necessary in order to make farming a profitable industry, and the kind of rotation to be followed must not be chosen in a haphazard manner but must conform to the requirements of particular regions and different systems of farming.

The chief object of improved crop rotations is to assist in maintaining the fertility of the soil and thereby increase the yield of farm crops. The adoption of a good rotation involves merely an arrangment of the cropping plan so as to produce one crop after another in proper sequence. It causes no additional expense. If proper methods of tillage are followed in the rotation weeds are satisfactorily controlled. Insect pests and fungous diseases are kept in check better by rotations than when the same kind of crop is grown in successive seasons, especially in the case of crops subject to attacks of certain insects and diseases. Another important advantage of using a proper rotation is the better distribution of labor throughout the season.

Some Old Hens Are O.K.

Here's an experiment I recently made: I bought 100 three-year-old White Leghorn hens. I have been informed many times that old hens are not a good investment. From my older records I know that each hen costs me about 60 cents a year and must lay 90 eggs to pay for her "board and keep."

In four and one-half months these 100 old hens produced 8,900 eggs, or enough eggs to keep them for a year. The rest of the year they will be pure profit and I can sell them at the end of that time for about as much as I paid for them or more. I bought them cheap because they were three-year-olds.

I now have 700 pullets and hens and my new hatchery. My chicken business is still considered a side line with me but it is proving to be a better paying business than my real line, that of raising cattle.—C. B. W.

Nature is always trying to "put in her oar." Often before now I have found clumps of elderberry bushes growing right in the middle of the meadow. How they came there was more than I could tell until I tried to dig out the stuff root and branch. then I found how almost impossible it is to get the last particle of root. And it is the little roots which are left that start up new clusters of the bushes. I have learned that I must do a thorough job if I would get the best of Nature.—E. L. V.

A SMART TWO-PIECE COSTUME

Smartly youthful is the two-piece frock of flannel pictured here. The slip-on blouse opens under a plait at the centre front and plaited frilling falls gracefully at the left side. There are soft gathers at each shoulder, a shaped collar, set-in pockets, and the long sleeves are finished with cuffs. No. 1044 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust. Size 36 requires 2½ yards 36-inch material; ¼ yard plaited frilling. 20 cents.

The two-piece skirt has an inverted plait in the centre front and at each side seam and is joined to a dart-fitted lining top. No. 1033 is in sizes 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 inches bust. Size 36 requires 1⅞ yards 36-inch material and 1⅜ yards 36-inch lining. 20 cents each pattern.

The designs illustrated in our new Fashion Book are advance styles for the home dressmaker, and the woman or girl who desires to wear garments dependable for taste, simplicity and economy will find her desires fulfilled in our patterns. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Healthful Canned Foods.

Never in the history of the canning industry, as regards fruits and vegetables, says Dr. Robert Barnes, Chief of the Meat and Canned Foods Division of the Health of Animals Branch at Ottawa, has such extreme care been taken in the quality of the finished product as now. Greater care is being exercised in the processing and identification of the canned product in order that when labelled the quality claimed will be found in the can.

Regarding canned meats Dr. Barnes in his report to the Veterinary Director General, from which the foegoing is quoted, expresses appreciation of co-operation of factory managements and adds that its continuance will result in the consumer being able to obtain a quality unsurpassed, free from disease, sound and wholesome, if he insists that the products he buys bear the government guarantee "Canada Approved."

Dr. Barnes, however, feels compelled to deplore the unwarranted number of immature calves sent forward for slaughter and the carelessness apparent from the bruises on live stock in handling and shipping.

The Last Pounds Count.

I find that it pays handsomely to well-fatten the chickens, hens and turkeys that are to be marketed, just as well as it does the cattle and hogs. A large portion of the poultry marketed does not bring a fair price for the simple reason that it is not put in proper condition. No one desires a poor fowl of any kind. I find that liberal feeding for ten or fifteen days before marketing on a ration of oats, wheat and cracked corn, twice a day, with an ample supply of fresh water, will put any healthy fowl in prime condition for marketing.

A fat turkey or chicken will bring five or seven cents more per pound than a poor one, and at little expense when we raise the feed. It doesn't pay a farmer to raise any kind of livestock when he has to buy the feed. —W. H. H.

If we were to shrink from dreaming of the impossible, we should never achieve the possible.

THE CANADIAN HOMEMAKER

A series of weekly articles covering

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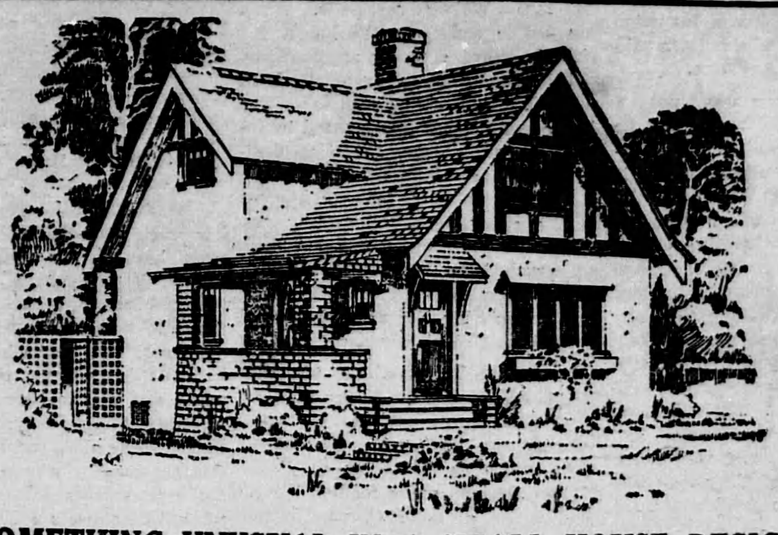


SOMETHING UNUSUAL IN A SMALL HOUSE DESIGN

By Edgar Prain, Architect.

Moderation in size and cost are frequently misconceived as being detrimental to the achievement of pleasing appearance. It is indeed unfortunate that such thoughts should exist for they are entirely fallacious and much that is deplorable in the case of many small homes may be attributed to them.

The delightful little English type of house here illustrated can be built for approximately fifty-five hundred dollars and for beauty of line and real charm is hard to improve upon. For ages and ages English domestic architecture has been a great heritage to home lovers the world over. The well sloped shingle roof; white stucco walls; half-timbered gables stained a dark brown, and the dark rug brick of the verandah are a splendid choice of materials and colors which, through their artistic blending in texture and tone, will please the most fastidious tastes.

The hood over the entrance and the flower box are practically negligible items from the viewpoint of cost but quite indispensable from that of appearance. Neither has the architect failed to indicate the importance of such finishing touches as attractive fencing and shrubs. Trees are shown in the background and one or two well placed at the side or in front would not be amiss—the shadows would be very effective on the white stucco.

The floor plans are self-explanatory but space will permit comment on several outstanding features of the one for the ground floor.

If preferred, the verandah could be converted into a sunroom. It is accessible through a small hall from both the kitchen and the living room. This is a very convenient arrangement for the serving of meals or perhaps just afternoon tea on the verandah during the summer.

The living room is quite large, 17' x 12', and has a beamed ceiling and open fireplace. The matter of light is well taken care of by the large group of four windows in front; the window at the side and also by the light from the vestibule and lobby at the left.

You will notice that one may go directly from any one room to either of the other two. Experts in this phase of home planning will tell you that in the short space of one year the good wife has walked so many miles less; saved several days of her time and that the saving in wear and tear on floor coverings amounts to so much.

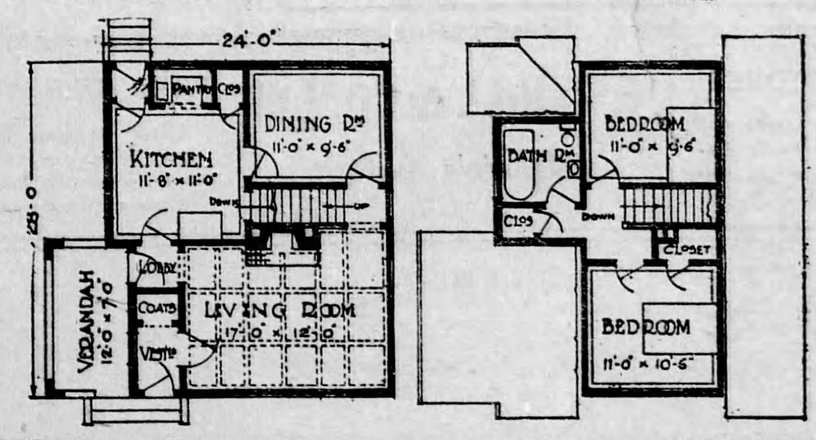
Readers desiring further information regarding the plans and specifications of this house should communicate with the architect direct. Address Mr. Edgar Prain, 212 Confederation Life Building, Winnipeg, Man.

Question: What is the best way to avoid extras in building? My friends who built recently found that their house cost a great deal more than they though it would. I want to avoid this.

The time to avoid difficulties of this kind is before the work is started. You cannot hope to avoid "extras" unless your plans and specifications are complete, and that means having them done by an architect who knows his business. If you find you must make changes during the building, have the contractor give you a figure on the cost of each change before you order the work done, and always have transactions of this kind in writing.

Question: The party owning the lot next to me suggests that I go in partnership with him for a drive, half of which be on my property. Would it increase the selling value of my house? Should the agreement be made permanent or only for a number of years?

Whether or not this is a satisfactory arrangement for you depends upon how useful such a driveway would be to your property. If you need such a drive this is a means of getting one by paying half of the necessary expense. If there is no other way of servicing your house or providing access to garage such a drive would increase the selling value of your house. Under such circumstances the agreement should be a permanent one, made part of the deed.



DON'T LET FLANNELS SHRINK

Properly Laundried, They Will Keep Their Original Dimensions.

BY JULIA WOLFE.

Winter is "flannel time," therefore washing them correctly is often quite a problem to the housewife. Of course, the flannels of to-day are quite less cumbersome than those of days gone by, but these neatly-fitted garments are often spoiled by not knowing just how to wash them.

In washing all undyed woolen articles, a little ammonia can be used to advantage, rendering them soft and comfortable to the skin. Prepare a lather, always using soap-jelly for the purpose. The alkali in the soap-jelly is very much modified, and less likely to harm the wool than if cakes of soap are directly rubbed on them.

See that the water is only a little more than tepid; work up the lather with the hand; add a little ammonia—one tablespoonful to one gallon of water is the allowance—and plunge in the garment.

DONT'S WITH FLANNELS.

Never rub on soap nor rub between the hands. Rather, shake about in the water, and use a sort of squeezing motion. Squeeze out this first water. If very dirty, put into a second water with rather less soap-jelly, and no ammonia. Pass this through the water in the same way, then clean warm water for rinsing. Pass through the wringer, then shake well. The importance of this process must be emphasized.

To prevent shrinking, woolen goods must be dried very quickly, and much of the moisture can be shaken out; the shaking also raises the pile of the wool, and keeps it soft.

See that all knitted garments are pulled into their natural shape before they are thoroughly dry, and hang in the air, but not in the sun. If drying indoors must be resorted to, do not hang too near the fire, nor in too great heat.

If the slightest steam rises from woolens when they are drying, they are "walking in" as hard as they can walk.

WHY FLANNEL SHRINKS.

You may wonder why flannels shrink. Well, there are six reasons:

1. Because soap has been rubbed instead of soap-jelly being used.
2. They have either been washed or rinsed in water too hot or too cold.
3. They have been allowed to lie about wet, instead of being hung up to dry immediately.
4. They have been dried too slowly.
5. They have been dried so close to an open fire that they steamed.
6. They have been ironed while wet, with a heavy hot iron.

Take as much soap as will be required, and cut it down in shreds if you wish to make soap-jelly. Put it into a saucepan, and just cover it with hot or cold water. Allow the soap to melt slowly over the fire until it is quite clear and without lumps. It is better to make soap-jelly fresh each week, as it loses its strength if kept many days.

Fine white flannels may be pressed with a warm iron on the wrong side, or on the right side if a piece of muslin is laid over it first. But they must be quite dry or the iron will turn the moisture into steam, and so cause them to shrink.

Ironing, without a doubt, gives flannels a fine appearance, but as the warmth of flannel depends to a great extent on its soft, wooly surface, it is a pity to deprive it of this by ironing, especially in the case of garments that are worn as underwear. Ironing presses the soft fibres into the material, making it less comfortable. They should, instead, be well shaken and pulled into shape, folded evenly, aired carefully, and put away.

Vinegar Solves Many Problems.

Vinegar is a household necessity with me. I find that two tablespoons added to the rinse water when washing silks of any kind, stockings, gloves, underwear, and other silk fabrics, will give them a brand new silky gloss. We make a liniment that is excellent from equal parts of vinegar and turpentine and the whites of eggs. Vinegar has a soothing effect when rinsing the hair after a shampoo. Vinegar softens plaster of Paris so that it can be pasted into broken cracks and places about the home. It helps to spread it more smoothly.

I Sold Dried Apples.

Every year we have a lot of inferior apples. Last summer I bought, for 98 cents, an apple parer with an attachment to take out the core. Every day the apples were gathered and peeled. Then I sliced them with a potato slicer.

The tin roof of the henhouse and shed of the barn made a fine place to spread them. I covered them with cheesecloth to keep flies away and I never left them out overnight, as that makes them dark. I sold a lot to local merchants and the rest I put up in clean white cotton bags and sold them through an ad in the county paper. The regular price I charged was 10 cents a pound I cleared $20.—E. M.