

# About the House

## THE SUMMER CHRISTMAS SHELF.

Instead of waiting until Christmas is almost here and then rushing madly about to purchase gifts for your friends, why not start a Christmas shelf now? Every walk and drive about the country and every trip away from home may be made to contribute to the collection.

Sofa pillows stuffed with balsam have long been in use and will ever bring delight to the weary city dweller. Less known, but not less delightful, are cushions filled with sweet fern and bayberry leaves. The sweet fern should be gathered when in full leaf, but before it has begun to dry.

The ideal place to dry them is in a hot dry room indoors. Use two-thirds sweet fern to one-third bayberry leaves.

Those who live where the white birch grows will find it a contributor.

Unique and rustic looking place cards may be made for the friend who is always looking for something a little different for her luncheon entertainments. Your camper friends would like napkin rings made of birch bark.

Anyone who has at her command an old-fashioned herb garden can prepare gifts which will be appreciated by any housekeeping friend. Who would not be glad to have the spicy fragrance of herbs greet them when shaking out the woollens and furs in the fall rather than evil-smelling moth balls?

The following formula of carefully dried herbs is a good preventive against moths: rosemary and spearmint, each a half pound; tansy and thyme, each four ounces; and freshly ground cloves, two tablespoonfuls. Mix and store in well-closed boxes until the holiday season.

No perfumes made by man can compare with some of those which are the product of the garden. If there are a few bushes of lavender at command one has material for many nice remembrances. If there is lemon verbena around, it is well to know it combines wonderfully with lavender, one improving the other. Think how delighted would be the dainty housekeeper who likes her linens and sheets to have the old-time lavender smell to receive a bag of this mixture well dried.

Last summer I met a girl who was filling her Christmas shelf with vegetables canned in glass, not the ordinary run of vegetables most of us put up. In a most exclusive shop in the city she had seen beets about the size of big marbles, tiny lima beans, string beans and peas in pint jars, and such were the dainty first fruits of the vine which were to appease the appetites of her friends. Then there

are the out-of-the-ordinary jellies, fruits of pickles—rhubarb jelly, elderberry jelly, wild plum or black currant jellies. Spiced currants and spiced cranberries can seldom be bought.

If you start a Christmas shelf now, when the season of gift giving is at hand you will be neither hurried nor worried.



1002

### Striking Frock of Summer Silk

Note the simple, graceful lines of the semi-fitted, long-waisted bodice with smart bateau neck and Bertha collar. Two styles of sleeves are provided, either of which are in good taste; the longer sleeves finished with a tuck above hem. Attached two-piece slightly gathered skirt with graduated tucks. Plain or printed silks, challies or cotton fabrics may be used for this model. Misses' dress No. 1002 cut in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years. Size 18 requires 4 1/2 yards 44 or 44 inch material, with 1/2 yard plain material 36 or 40 inches wide for Bertha collar.

### NEW PATTERN SERVICE.

Pattern mailed to any address on receipt of 20c in silver, by the Wilson Pattern Service, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

### OUR NEW LIVING ROOM.

I say "our" living room, for I have had the co-operation of the entire family consisting of my husband, daughter aged fourteen, two smaller boys, the youngest eleven, and a wee toddler.

Our kitchen and dining room have always been on the north side of the house with a small window in the north and a larger one in the east. This did very well in summer when the doors could be open, but on cloudy winter days it was dreary from daylight till dark.

This year we have changed things. The two south rooms which have always been parlor and spare bedroom, used only occasionally, will be kitchen and living room. There are two large double windows in the south and the same in the west; a glass door and large window in the east.

In our living room will be comfy rockers, an inviting couch, a warm rug, a cozy corner back of the heater with a pretty box for baby's playthings, plenty of geraniums in the windows, sofa pillows covered with flowered cretonne. The same cretonne will be at double doors in place of portieres and also for overdrapes at the windows over inexpensive white curtains which can be easily laundered.

We shall have a library table in the centre of the room (with a good lamp and the late magazines and daily paper) large enough so that the family can gather around in the evening to study, read or play games. I have a flat-top trunk which I shall pad with an old comforter and cover with the cretonne for a window seat at the south window; this will also be a container for needlework and games. When our room is finished, it will be so cozy we shall almost welcome the long winter evenings.

Daughter is anxious for the room to be finished so she can invite her school friends in to spend the night with her. The boys are just as enthusiastic. Their part will be to fix the windows for the plants and the box for baby's playthings. Father has ordered the rug and we shall soon be snug in the brightest rooms in the house. I have no fear that my chil-

dren and husband will hunt amusement in town or elsewhere.—P. H. J.

### A BATH BOARD FOR BABY.

No one thing has been of greater value as a back, foot and time saver to me, in the care of my baby, than the bath board which my husband made to put across the tub for baby's diapering and bath.

We have a small house and a smaller bathroom. A nursery table was out of the question, so my husband made a board to fit across one end of the bathtub. It is made with cleats underneath so that it cannot slip and is covered with oilcloth. The board is 32 by 23 inches.

On this board when baby was tiny there was room for bath basket, small tub and baby himself. Later when he was big enough to put into the big tub it was so convenient to lift him onto the board which I had previously covered with a large towel, wrap him in the towel and continue with the rites of his bath with all his things in his basket in front of me. When he grew larger the basket had to be moved from the board to make room for him, but there was always room for the stack of diapers.

As long as diapering was necessary we used the board for that, and found it saved dozens of steps. Everything needed was right there. We are using the board yet for bath and dressing, and I don't know what I will do when baby outgrows his bath board.—J. L. W.

### GUESS THE NUMBER.

Tell some one to think of a number; then tell her to double it. Next, ask her to add to the resulting number any number you choose; for example, tell her to add twenty. Then have her divide that sum by two and subtract the original number from the quotient. Then tell her that the remainder she has in mind is ten. The secret is this: the final number will be one-half the number you tell her to add. Since in the above instance it was twenty, the final number was ten. By suggesting that an even number be chosen to start with you can always avoid complicating the problem with fractions.

### A Poem You Ought to Know.

"Daybreak."

The critics refuse to give Henry Wadsworth Longfellow a place in the first rank of the world's poets, but if the value of a poet were to be reckoned by the pleasure he has given to the largest number, Longfellow's position would be a very high one indeed. For one person who could recite a verse from Tennyson, Browning, or Keats, a hundred could quote from the author of "The Village Blacksmith," "Hiawatha," and "Evangeline." Here is a poem which perhaps is not so familiar as those named:—

A wind came up out of the sea,  
And said, "O mists, make room for me."

It hailed the ships and cried, "Sail on,  
Ye mariners, the night is gone."

And hurried landward far away,  
Crying, "Awake! it is the day."

It said unto the forest, "Shout!  
Hang all your leafy banners out!"

It touched the wood-bird's folded wing,  
And said, "O bird, awake and sing."

And o'er the farms, "O chanticleer,  
Your clarion blow; the day is near."

It whispered to the fields of corn,  
"Bow down, and hail the coming morn."

It shouted through the belfry-tower,  
"Awake, O bell! proclaim the hour!"

It crossed the churchyard with a sigh,  
And said, "Not yet! in quiet lie."

## —AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



## THOUSANDS OF TONS OF PRECIOUS METALS

### Canada Occupies an Important Place as a Producer of Gold and Silver.

To the end of 1923 Canada had produced over \$512,000,000 in gold. The prospect of rapid increase in the present rate of production is good, and there is reason to expect that Canada will soon become the second largest gold producing country in the world, says the Mines Branch of the Canadian Department of Mines.

Gold is found in every province of Canada, with the exception of Prince Edward Island, and, in point of value, next to coal, is the most important mineral product of the Dominion. Present indications, indeed, point to the possibility of the value of Canada's gold output surpassing even that of her coal during the next few years.

The opening up of the Porcupine and Kirkland Lake gold camps marked the beginning of a new era in the history of gold mining in Ontario, which is now one of the important gold producing countries of the world. Though the first productive operations at Porcupine date only from 1909, and at Kirkland Lake from 1913, these two camps had at the end of 1923 paid out in dividends over \$34,000,000. With nearly every producing mine increasing both its proved ore reserves and its milling capacity, and with a number of new mines rapidly approaching the productive stage, the gold output of Ontario, which in 1923 amounted to \$20,000,000, should show a marked increase within the next few years.

Canada's total gold production in 1923 was a little under \$25,000,000, of which about 90 per cent. was produced as bullion.

Silver comes second only to gold among the metals produced in the Dominion in point of value of annual production, and among the silver producing countries of the world Canada ranks third.

Developments at Cobalt have made Ontario not only the premier silver mining province of the Dominion, but also one of the greatest silver producing countries of the world. To the end

of 1922, this and other northern Ontario silver camps have contributed a total of about 325,000,000 ounces, or nearly 11,143 tons of fine silver to the world's stock. The maximum annual production of 30,500,000 ounces was reached in 1911.

For many years the silver output of British Columbia ranged between two and four million ounces annually, largely from silver-lead mines in the Kootenays, but in 1922 this was increased to over 7,000,000 ounces, due principally to the increased production from the Premier mine near Stewart.

In Yukon Territory rich silver-lead ores which are now being shipped from Kene Hill, in the Mayo district, give promise of a silver production exceeding in value the present gold production of the territory.

The greater part of British Columbia's production is recovered as refined silver at the Trail Smelter and Refinery.

In Ontario, much of the ore, the silver content of the highest grades of which may run into thousands of ounces per ton, is treated at the mines for the recovery of silver only, the remaining ore and concentrates, together with the residues from the local reduction plants, which still contain some silver as well as cobalt, nickel, arsenic, etc., are shipped either to smelters and refineries in southern Ontario, at Thorold and Delore, or exported for final treatment. The final products derived from the Cobalt ores include, in addition to silver, metallic cobalt and cobalt compounds, including the alloy "stellite," nickel and nickel compounds, white arsenic and insecticides.

To the end of 1923 Canada has produced 450,000,000 ounces of silver. The present rate of production is about 17,000,000 ounces. Of this about 75 per cent is exported in the form of bullion and has been marketed chiefly in Great Britain, the United States, Hong Kong, China, and Japan, in the order mentioned.

The enormous territory over which metalliferous ores have been found, the comparatively recent development of many metallurgical industries for the recovery of metals, and the abundance of hydro-electric power for electric-metallurgical operations, bid fair to show a vast increase in the production of these two important metals. The Mines Department of Canada is keenly interested in the developments that are taking place in gold and silver mining in Canada, and looks for much progress in this direction.

### Smelling Two Miles Away.

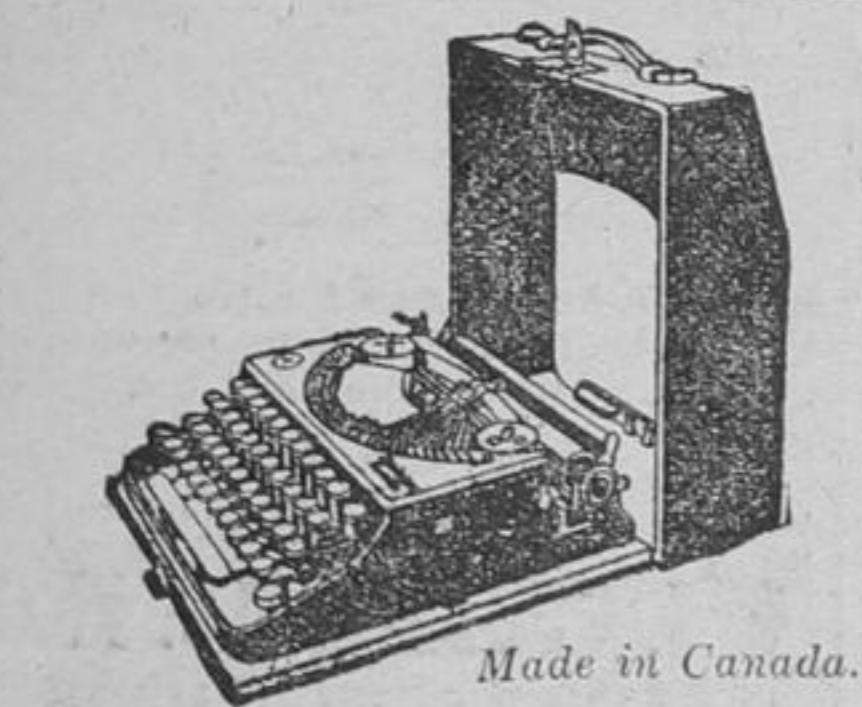
While elephants are known to have a wonderful sense of smell, the keenest-scented animal is said to be the rhinoceros. One big game hunter has stated that in favorable weather this animal can "wind" a man for two miles. Most animals give off scent through their feet. The bloodhound can "scent" the object of its search many hours after it has passed. The length of time depends upon atmospheric conditions. On a sharp, dry day, it does not "lay." On a damp day, however, the odor sticks to surrounding objects.

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