

# Canada's Need More Low Cost Homes

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 a dozen municipalities in Great Britain stating that it is their decided policy to build wooden schools. And these include municipalities as large as Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham. Yet we in Canada are developing a snobbish fear of wood construction which is in the nature of a double-barreled curse upon our people—It makes the cost of housing scandalously high, and at the same time deprives a large section of our people of employment by robbing our second largest industry of its markets. The Forest Products Industry of Canada provides over 16% of the employment of our people. In lumbering and agriculture together some 1,300,000 persons are gainfully employed. Every restriction on the use of lumber is a direct and unjustified restriction against the means of livelihood of all those people. It has even more far-reaching effects than that. It is a further constriction of our home markets at a very time in history when the development of the home market is the best hope of survival in every country.

### Advantages of Home Ownership

There is a psychological reaction on an individual when he becomes the owner of a home. He literally secures a stake in the community and actually owns a piece of his country. There is a sense of security in ownership, which has no parallel in tenancy. There is contained therein the seed of independence which has given rise to the saying which has become an actual fact, that, "An Englishman's home is his castle." Size and cost are not factors in this philosophy. The small lowland Scot, laird in his little better than clay biggin felt just as independent as the earl in his castle. The Highland crofter in his thatched cottage developed a love of home ownership which was the underlying incentive of Britain's emigration policy and the foundation stone of her empire.

The eventual reduction in family overhead which comes of home ownership and systematic payment on mortgage is the safest form of saving.

Communism can have no place in a nation of home owners for even working men are then capitalists.

Contrast these conditions with those prevailing where people live in apartment houses. Twenty-five, fifty, a hundred or more families live under one roof like a swarm of rabbits in a warren. They lose their individuality and conform to a pattern. Instead of uplift and ambition, there is a levelling downward by the contaminating effect of even one bad apple in the crate. Instead of happiness and enjoyment of life there is a breeding of discontent, opportunity for increased laxity of morals and a general lowering of standards. There is a wise Scottish saying, "Every new hive should have a new skep" meaning that when a young couple marry they should leave for a home of their own as the bees do, away from the disturbing influence of in-laws. In our apartment house system we add to an interfering mother-in-law a hundred other interfering busy-bodies. Yet we wonder why there is an increased tendency to divorce!

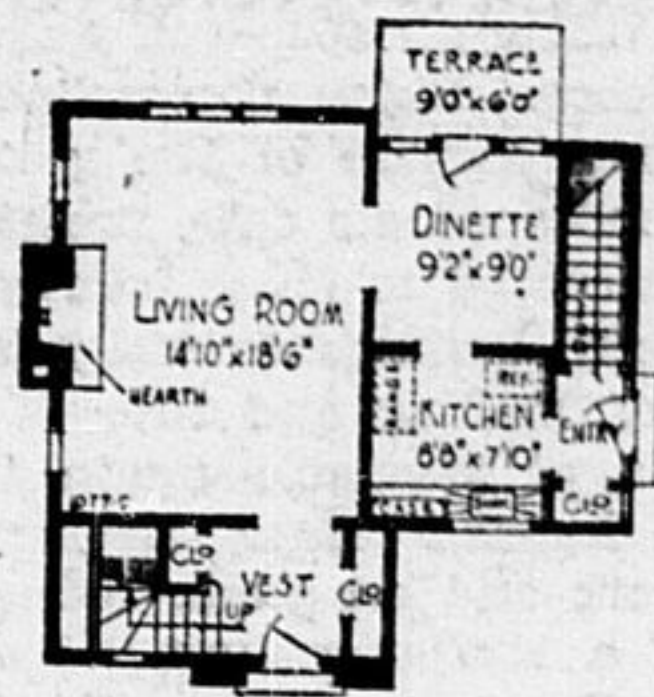
### Low Cost Houses

The most crying need in Canada today is low-cost homes for our people. Given these our unemployment problems would in large measure solve themselves. You ask me how we will finance such. I ask you in return "How will you finance rearmament?" Yet you will finance rearmament on a huge scale!

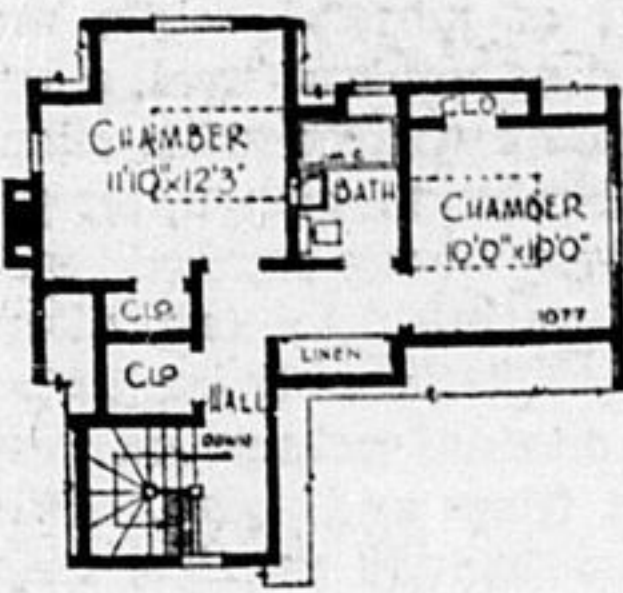
Now I am not taking issue with a rearmament programme. In fact I agree with its needs. But you know the adage: "Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage." Neither do armaments alone make for the security of a country. Behind the armaments, we must have a people with a passion for liberty, with a love of home, with the intestinal fortitude to fight and even die for a cause, and with health and stamina to make such resistance effective.

Can we have a passion for liberty, if we have no liberty? Can we have a love of home if we have no home? Can we have the will to fight and even die for a cause, if we do not believe in it? Can we have health and stamina, if our children have rickets, our mothers

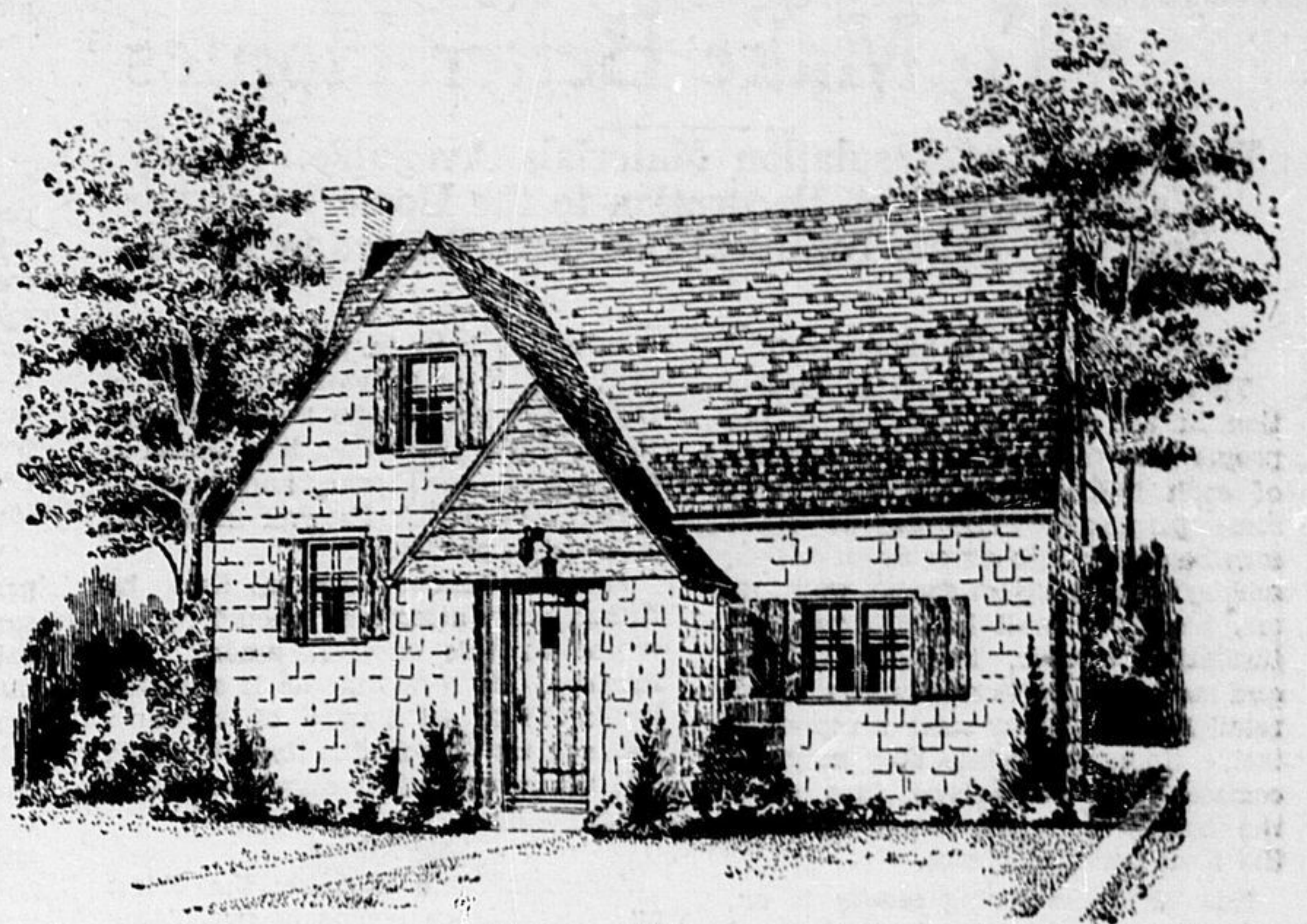
## CHARMING ENGLISH COTTAGE DESIGN



First Floor



Second Floor



Small-paned windows, batten shutters, and colourful shingled walls, characterize this modern version of the popular old English cottage.

The strap-hinged front door opens into a small vestibule. This compact but carefully planned room boasts two clothes closets, both convenient for coats, sports equipment, games, card tables, etc. A turning stairway leads to the second floor from this room, and directly opposite the front door is a cased opening leading into the living room.

This comfortably planned room is lighted by five windows, and a large open fire place is centered on one long wall. Adequate wall space for all large pieces of furniture is provided.

The dinette is small, but designed to provide a maximum of usable floor and wall space. Two windows and a glazed door

lead to a small terrace at the rear of the house, making a pleasant spot for out-of-doors meals during warm weather. Adjoining the dinette is a complete kitchen. The rear entry has doors to the basement, driveway and a closet conveniently placed for cleaning supplies and storage.

Two bedrooms are provided on the second floor, with a bath placed between them. Special care has been taken to provide a maximum of closet space on the second floor; each of the bedrooms has a large closet, plus a built-in linen closet and an extra large closet for storage purposes opening off the hall.

This small house, like most other designs of English inspiration, can be effectively built of almost any local material. Shown here with a shingled exterior, it would be equally attractive finished in stone, brick or stucco.

are anaemic and tubercular from insanitary living conditions, and our fathers have the lethargy of the hopelessly unemployed and the flabby muscles of the unexercised?

The Almighty has gifted us with the finest country in the world. Beyond any other people, we have been afforded the loan of talents. If we are not worthy of them, then in fairness to humanity we should make way for a people of greater virility, of wider vision, and practical common sense.

## Some Timely Hints for Flower Garden

### Better Homes Means More and Better Gardens.

"Better Homes" at once brings up the thought of more and better gardens. Home without a garden is scarcely home, and a town without gardens is in sad luck. Indeed, in this world today the Horticultural Society in very special way may be classed as a patriotic society because of what it does for the country, the community, the people. A "Better Homes" edition would be incomplete without something about better gardens.

Now that spring is here all dead stems should be cut off the plants, leaves and broken branches raked up and the garden tidied up. Plants that were put in last autumn should be examined and any that have been heaved out of the ground by frost should be replanted or pressed firmly into the soil. If left, the roots will probably dry out and die. The lawn should be well raked, advises Miss I. Preston, Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

If the grass is poor and bare patches occur, some good lawn grass seed should be scattered over the surface and raked in. Rolling the lawn is very beneficial at this time of year.

Perennials, such as Aster, Phlox, Helenium, that have grown into large clumps should be lifted, divided and replanted. If any bad weeds are found in among clumps of perennials the plants should be taken up and the roots of the weeds carefully removed and destroyed. The plants will recover very quickly at this season of the year and there is no other way of destroying weeds like couch grass.

Seedlings of garden plants, such as pansies and poppies, frequently show up in clumps of Dianthus and other covering plants and if carefully taken up they can be transplanted to some

vacant spot in the border.

In loosening up the soil at this season it is well to watch carefully for young growth which may be just at the surface as tips of lily and other plants are easily destroyed and that means no flowers in summer.

### HARMONIOUS DESIGN IN THE ROOM

There should be a contrast of straight and curved lines, but one should dominate. If the room has many windows and doors, have the draperies tied back to give curved lines. Mirrors with curved and shaped tops are better in rooms with many windows to vary the straight lines.

### OVERMANTEL DECORATION

For overmantel decoration use a large painting, wall hanging, mirror, wallpaper panel, carved wood bas-relief or figured tiles. Many modern decorators make effective use of a goldfish bowl or terrarium built into the wall and illuminated by concealed lights. Still other possibilities include photo-mourals and colourful maps.

Add a room to your home and comfort and pleasure to your life.

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