

## THE ELASTIC FARMHOUSE

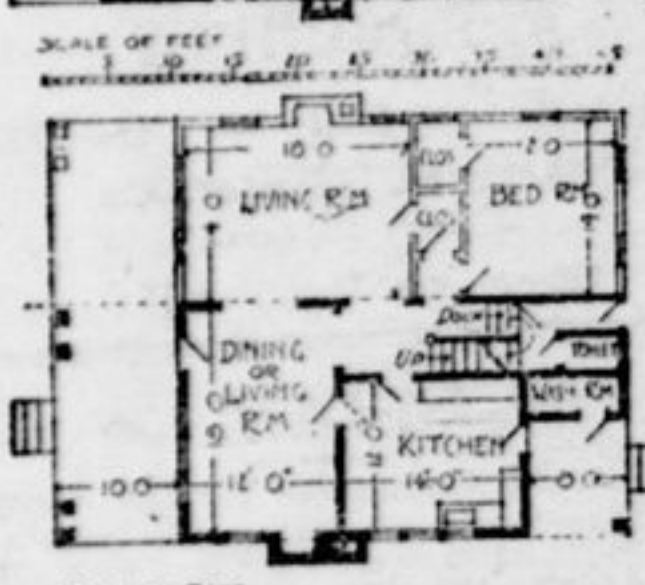
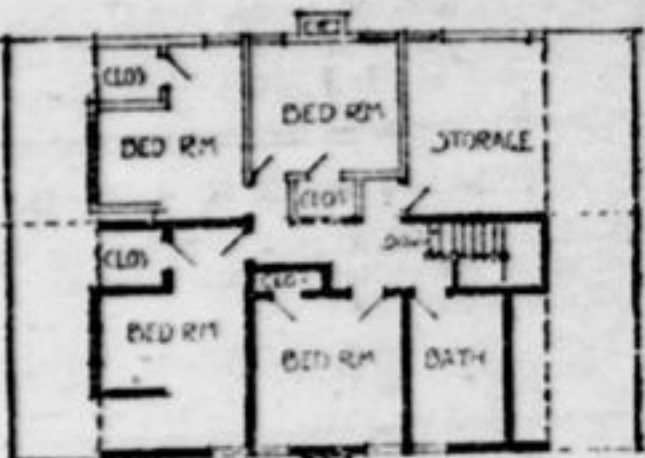
It is Planned for the Comfort, Convenience and Expansion of the Family.

By WILLIAM DRAPER.

"They're perfectly absurd!" sniffed young Mrs. Farmer. "What, these pretty little farmhouses?" queried the architect, in a surprised manner. "Why, I thought you'd—"

"Yes, exactly; you thought I'd take a seashore-cottage plan, just because you called it a 'farmhouse'." Another little snuff, dignified but very decided. "And I don't believe your architects would know a real farmhouse if you saw one, so there!"

"Well, to tell the truth, I don't believe we could," laughed the architect. "So, suppose you tell me what a farm house should be like and then I'll see if I can't plan one to suit you."



Note the heavy lines on the floor plans which indicate the part to be built first.

Young Mrs. Farmer wrinkled her brows a moment. "Well, let's see; we'll only need a teeny little cottage now, just big enough for Jim and me, just a medium-sized kitchen, say about 12 by 14—you know farm folk eat in the kitchen more than half the time because it saves a whole lot of labor and trotting around. Then, there must be a nice back porch with a wash room on it so that Jim and the hired man can clean up, when they come in from work, without tracking dirt into the house. And I want a nice big living room. We will not bother

you just ought to see the mod and manure that the men track through the living room, when the stairs are at the front of the house." She stopped a moment to consider; then went on again. "I want two bedrooms, upstairs, and a bathroom, too. But I'm not sure where I want this bath; the second story would be more convenient to the bedrooms, but the first story would be a lot more handy to the kitchen. And I spend most of my day in the kitchen, as every farmer's wife does!"

"But maybe this house will not be

big enough for you, later on," objected the architect. "You know, if there are more of us later on than just Jim and me?" Mrs. Farmer blushed. "Yes, that's so; and I want you to plan a house that we can add to, without tearing it all down and building it over again. We'll want a dining room, and several extra bedrooms; one of these bedrooms must be on the first floor."

"Why on the first floor?" asked the architect. "Because in case of sickness, I can keep the patient down there; it will make the work of nursing a whole lot easier for me. And when we're well, Jim can use that room as his office."

"H'm—h'm—," mused the architect. "Suppose you come in to-morrow and I'll have something sketched out for you."

The farmer's wife arrived promptly. "Good-morning!" said the architect, cheerily. "Here's the sketch. The Elastic Farmhouse, I call it, because

Some farmers have found that milking machines will pay with credit better of from four, eight and ten cows. Of course, it is understood that they must be good cows. Whether such machines will pay with small herds or not depends on the farmer and his system of management. In general the farmer with only four to six cows cannot spend too much for equipment if he has to pay interest on the investment and lacks the best opportunities of selling milk at a profit.

To lift a calf into a truck, stand on one side of the calf and have a helper on the other side. Take hold of hands under the calf and lift it up and over. In this way a veal calf can be lifted up with little effort and no injury or rough handling of the animal.

It does not seem as if the price of veal on the hoof is going to compare favorably with the market price for veal when the consumer buys it. Why not cutting them to restaurants or divide them and sell to private consumers. One local dealer tells me that he could afford to pay more for meat if his customers would buy it all. But he finds they all want the finest cuts and this leaves him with the other parts on his hands.

Dairymen generally hate to butcher calves. But one knock and they are ready for the knife and it is really not as cruel as shipping them alive to a distant market. It is rather hard to do it at first but not much harder than killing a chicken after becoming used to it. Not much equipment is needed. The heart and tongue can be kept for home use. There will be considerable blood for a poultry mash. The liver is usually demanded by local dealers or buyers for restaurants and should be delivered with the carcass.

**Start An Apiary Now.**  
The latter part of April is a good time to start an apiary. This may be done either by buying full strength colonies or small nuclei of two or three frames each, or bees, brood and queen. By all means secure the dark leather-colored Italian bees, as they are not only gentle, but are harder through the winter in better shape. When the full colonies arrive, the best plan is to place them at once on what is to be their permanent stands. Remove the wire screen from top and bottom of the body, and place the bottom board and lid in position. With the nuclei the same method is followed; but in this case the remaining space in the hive should be filled out with either frames with full sheets of foundation wired in, or better still with frames of honey that may be on hand.

Whether the apiary is composed of more or few colonies, it is a mistake to place the hives where they are heavily shaded by tree branches and leaves. While the placing of the colonies out in the open where the sun's rays shine upon them may slightly increase the tendency to swarm, nevertheless there are certain seasons of the year when the warmth of the sun is needed to conserve the heat of the colony. Proper ventilation and shade boards will more than counterbalance the desire to swarm. All in all, it is best to place the colonies out in the open rather than in a shady place.

Now is a good time to make preparations for the harvest. An increasing number of beekeepers are giving up entirely the production of comb-honey with its endless manipulation and its encouragement to the bees to swarm. Instead, extracted honey is having its day, as swarming is held to a minimum when it is produced. However, the colonies do not have to build new combs for storage and can produce more than twice as much extracted honey as comb-honey, and at the same time require less attention—a factor to be considered, especially where there are a number of out apiaries.

**Early Plants Out-of-Doors.**  
The gardener who wishes to get his cucumber, squash, and any other tender vines, started in the early spring before the cold weather would permit ordinary sowing of the seed, should dig a hole one foot and a half deep where he wants the vines. The diameter of the hole should be about one foot.

The first layer to be put into the hole is coarse rock. This insures drainage and keeps the bottom of the pit from sinking down in the wet ground of early spring. Above the rock place a layer of gravel. The thickness of the rock layer is about three inches. Upon this place a three-inch layer of well-rotted manure each layer packed into place so that there will not be undue sinking as the new-laid layers get settled into place. The top layer in the pit is three inches of rich garden soil. The seeds are placed in this exactly the same as if they were sown in the ordinary way. The top of the soil in the hole should be about four or five inches from the surface of the ground.

Good drainage should be secured about the pit so that it will not fill and hold water at every rain. If the soil is sandy or inclined to cave in about the sides of a hole, use a bottomless old pail of the sixteen-quart size, leaving this pail in the pit as a form even after the vines are well

doing with the hope that they will be forgiven. The seed of evil-doing will bear a harvest, just as surely as that of well-doing. What crimes a man commits have consequences which even God's forgiveness will not nullify. God is not mocked.

This truth applies to physical as well as to spiritual health. Bad habits of life poison and corrupt the body. Intemperance, nervous disease, and habits of excessive drinking and smoking are hurtful to many who indulge in them. The small boy who imitates the cigarette habit of his big brother is laying up trouble for himself in later years. There are other habits of uncleanness, and overeating, and unsuitable dressing, and excessive indulgence in certain fascinating kinds of amusement, which are equally bad. Let us take to heart Paul's lessons and remember that we who are workers to-day will be reapers to-morrow.

**Application.**  
The truth of this familiar passage from Galatians is illustrated on every hand. The doctors are regularly discovering emphatically the poison which which physical decay, and death follow "sowing to the flesh." Nature is iron-like in her laws and repentance though with tears cannot buy off the punishment she inflicts if her laws are broken. Everyone of us has the making of his future in his own hands. It will be a harvest of a kind depending on the quality of our present sowing. The future, and finally eternity, will be the multiplied and consummated outcome of the good or evil of our present life. "He is just sin ripe-rotten ripe. He is the fruitage of righteousness." If wild oats are sown there will be wild oats to reap. If the mind is filled with trash and refuse, nothing better will come out of it. On the other hand the sustained effort after good will in no wise fail of its reward both here and hereafter.

**Fly Finishers.**  
The common house-fly hates mignonette, and thus if you want a room fly-free, or practically so, either have a window-box of mignonette, or a pot or so in the room. Flies will not pass the box, and any who get into the room by other routes will be anxious to make a quick exit.

A window which has been cleaned with paraffin, too, is one that flies will fight shy of. Incidentally, paraffin is the best window-cleaner there is. It gives a fine, lasting polish.

It is a mistake in tactics, by the way, to put the ordinary sticky fly-trap in a room. That method attracts flies, if it also slaughters them. Put the fly-catchers outside the room, or in some place where the fly nuisance does not so greatly matter.

Laziness in April is apt to lead on to disease. The bright, active hen not only looks healthy but is healthy. While she is storing up energy she is also accumulating material for making eggs. Such hens bring in a profit, and are the ones to have in the breeding pens.

## Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL.  
The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged expert on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



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**W. R.:** What is the best way to fertilize strawberries and blackberries?  
**Answer:** In preparing a strawberry bed it is good practice to choose a piece of land that has been worked thoroughly for at least one or two seasons. If heavy dressings of manure have been made, so much the better. About two weeks before the strawberries are to be set, apply about 50 lb. per acre of fertilizer analyzing 4 to 6 per cent. ammonia, 8 to 12 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 to 5 per cent. potash. One of the best methods of applying this fertilizer is to drill it in with the regular fertilizer drill. If you do not happen to have this implement, scatter the fertilizer evenly over the ground and work it in by careful harrowing and raking. If the strawberries are one or more years old and the plants cover all the surface, choose a dry day as soon as the top covering of straw has been raked off and growth begins, and scatter fertilizer of the analysis recommended above, over the strawberries at the rate of about 300 to 400 lb. per acre.

**For blackcaps or other raspberries scatter fertilizer of the analysis recommended, down between the rows of canes just as soon as the ground will work thoroughly, applying about 500 lb. per acre. Work this into the soil by careful cultivation.**

**S. W.:** I have a field which I want to plant to potatoes. It is a clay loam but it is badly run. Can you tell me how much fertilizer to use to the acre, and the best way to put it on, and what kind to buy?  
**Answer:** I would advise you to apply 750 lbs. per acre of fertilizer analyzing 3 to 4 per cent. ammonia, 6 to 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 to 5 per cent. potash. If you are planting the potatoes with a planter, if you have the complete machine it will apply the fertilizer at the same time that the potato pieces are dropped. If you are planting the potatoes by hand, when you have opened the furrows or holes for the potato pieces, scatter a good heavy dressing of fertilizer along the furrows or into the holes, pull in a little soil over this fertilizer, then drop the potato pieces and proceed as usual. Do not drop the potato pieces immediately on top of the fertilizer.

**C. E. J.:** What kind of fertilizer is best for city loam, also for sandy land?  
**Answer:** For average garden loam soil in the city or town a fertilizer analyzing 4 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 4 per cent. potash is exceedingly good. If the soil is sandy, work in all you can obtain of leaves and some straw manure. This will help the physical condition of the sandy soil. The fertilizer recommended in addition should make it highly productive. Where you are working leaves and straw manure in sandy soil, be sure that the sandy soil is thoroughly packed before the seed is dropped or plants set, otherwise it may be too open for the moisture to rise, in which case the crops would actually be starved.

**T. R.:** Will vetch (fall vetch) sown with oats mature so as to make out to cut for cat and vetch hay? Will the vetch live through the coming winter so as to make seed that year?  
**Answer:** Your inquiry seems somewhat complicated. You speak of sowing fall vetch and oats together to make out and vetch hay. If you were to sow a mixture of spring vetch or common vetch with Daubney or Early Alaska oats you would get a mixture that would cut for hay the same year that it was sown since both crops are annuals. If you were to sow fall or winter vetch with oats it would not make sufficient progress to cut for cat and vetch hay. As a matter of fact if you are sowing fall vetch it is better to sow it alone so that the fall or winter vetch would have an opportunity to make a good head before going into winter. The usual amount to sow are about 20 to 30 lbs. of vetch seed to a bushel of oats per acre, or if sowing vetch alone use about one-half bushel of seed per acre.

**J. H.:** I intend sowing yellow blossom sweet clover this spring in the grain and in the fall plow it down for fertilizer. Will those roots grow the following spring?  
**Answer:** Sweet clover is a biennial, hence if you sow seed this year it will undoubtedly come up next year. However, if next year's crop is plowed there is no danger of the roots sending up shoots again. Next year the crop will have to be plowed under before seed is formed or the crop will perpetuate itself in the usual cycle. The best thing for you to watch is to turn the crop under before it forms seed.

**Japan has few wild animals and no poisonous reptiles.**

## What the Glass Shows



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## THE FAR-OFF RECKONING

"My son, if you do not break your self of this careless habit, you will suffer for it many times."  
"When?" the little boy asked.  
"When you are grown up and are in business."

"Oh!" The child was not interested. The future is far away to a child. When there is a promised pleasure the days creep, and threatened punishment seems always a long way off. Some children had just been listening to the reading of that chapter of Acts that tells of the death of Ananias and his wife. One boy commented, "If everyone that told a lie dropped dead now, I guess there wouldn't be many people left."

"Yes, there would," said another boy shrewdly. "After a few of them had dropped dead everyone else would stop telling lies."

No doubt he was right. We should not experiment if we know that punishment would be certain and instant. The theory sometimes advanced that children should be allowed to suffer the natural consequences of their faults is not sound, for it is cruel to the child. By the time nature has made him feel the folly of indolence, selfishness and dishonesty, the precious years of youth would be gone, habits would be fixed, and life very likely ruined.

Of course parents should make the penalties logical so far as possible. If the child sees that his punishment is a direct result of his fault, the lesson is far more effective than if he feels that there may be some element of vengeance in it. The disorderly child may be made to love a pleasure because he cannot find his ball, or cap, or some other thing carelessly tossed aside. The quarrelsome child may be shut off from family society until he can bring a sunny face and pleasant speech to the family circle. The spendthrift child may do without some longed-for thing.

The dishonest child is perhaps the hardest of all to deal with. "Dishonest" here means the child who cheats or lies for his own fancied advantage, or to conceal faults. The inaccuracies and exaggerations of childhood belong in another category. And really dishonest children are rarer than we usually think, though by unfortunate training some naturally honest children are made dishonest. Incentives to truth and a good example will do much to guard against future faults, but a real lie should meet with a real punishment, serious enough to be remembered.

The disobedient child is usually the fruit of foolish and weak-willed parents. A child trained in obedience from babyhood is pretty certain to obey his parents until he is old enough to use his own judgment. Then it is the part of wisdom to let him obey himself.

In the physical as in the moral life, penalties are too far removed to influence the child. When your daughter prefers sitting over a romance, or visiting "the girls," to taking proper exercise, you may use what you regard as a powerful argument. You may say, "My child, if you do not get plenty of fresh air and exercise now, and eat proper food, you will have an ugly complexion, a bad figure and poor health when you grow up."

That time is too far away. She would rather omit the long walk to-day, cuddle over the fire with a box of candy, and trust to luck to avert the vague evils of the future.

We teach all our school children the evils of tobacco, yet many high-school boys strut proudly about with cigarettes dropping from their mouths. In one neighborhood where there was much smoking among boys a troop of Boy Scouts was organized. The scoutmaster stated that no boy who smoked need apply for membership. When the company was ready to go on its first camping expedition all the boys in the school had left off smoking. They did not care to be barred from that opportunity.

It is always wise to deal instantly and in a decisive manner with faults that denote serious flaws in character.

**A Back-Yard Fernery.**  
A fernery in the back yard is a spot to conjure with. The north or shady side is most fitting, and it may include the hardy bracken, which are to be planted in the centre, as they grow tallest, often to a height of four feet. Around these set the more delicate varieties, taken up with the leaf mold in which they grow in the woods.

Sweet fern, too, heightens the attractiveness of a fernery, despite its commonness. Ground juniper, though of quite another family, so much resembles ferns in appearance that it may swell the list. Spraying overnight improves ferns.

April is a good month to set goose eggs. Five of these eggs are all an ordinary hen can cover.

Chickens hatched last fall should now weigh from six to eight pounds to the pair dressed, and the demand and the price for them are very good.

Keep the breeding stock busy. Good curries not only improves the appetite but it produces eggs. Laying hens are more profitable for the pot than they are for the egg basket.

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