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Home Course In Modern Agriculture

XVII.—The Farm Home
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MERIT REWARDED.
Few Head of the State Department, Robert Bacon, and His Assistant. The retirement of Ellis Root from the cabinet on account of his election as senator from New York left President Roosevelt under the necessity of finding some one to fulfill the duties of secretary of state in the interval between Mr. Root's retirement and the accession of Mr. Knox, who is to be secretary of state under President Taft. Mr. Roosevelt concluded that he could not do better than promote Assistant Secretary Robert Bacon and give him the honor of holding first place in the cabinet for the six weeks remaining of his administration.



ROBERT BACON.

Mr. Bacon has had considerable experience already in handling the duties of the office of secretary of state, for he has been acting secretary on several occasions when Mr. Root was visiting South America and Mexico in pursuance of his policy of furthering closer relations with Latin-American republics. Secretary Bacon is one of the many representatives of Harvard connected with the present administration and belonged to President Roosevelt's own class, 1880. He was a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. prior to assuming the post of assistant secretary of state. He has sometimes been called the Adonis of the cabinet on account of his handsome face and figure, for he was quite an athlete while at Harvard and, though now forty-nine years of age, looks much younger and still possesses a splendid physique. Mr. Bacon was one of the best basketball players ever had.

One result of the changes in the state department is the promotion of a prominent member of the Journalistic fraternity at Washington, John Callan O'Laughlin, to be assistant secretary of state under Mr. Bacon. Mr. O'Laughlin has until recently earned his bread by sweat of the brow and push of the pen as a newspaper correspondent and magazine writer. Not long since he was appointed secretary of the American commission to the Japanese exposition, but as that enterprise has been postponed from 1912 to 1917 the salaries of the commissioners to it from America have been reduced by congress to a merely nominal figure.

Mr. O'Laughlin, in fifteen years' study of American diplomatic and commercial questions, has lived in Washington, London, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg and has made inquiries in other countries. While in the far east with the Tokyo commission he studied the policies of China, Japan and other powers. He was born in Washington thirty-five years ago and has the degree of master of arts from Villanova college. During the Russo-Japanese war he was in Russia.

See Mother Grow Young.
"It would be hard to overstate the wonderful change in my mother since she began to use Electric Bitters," writes Mrs. W. L. Gilpatrick of Danforth, Me. "Although past 70 she seems ready to be growing young again. She suffered untold misery from dyspepsia for 20 years. At last she could neither eat, drink nor sleep. Doctors gave her up and all remedies failed till Electric Bitters worked such wonders for her health." They invigorate all vital organs, cure Liver and Kidney troubles, induce sleep impart strength and appetite. Only 50c at Burnaugh & Mayfield's.

The Icicle.
Although it trembles in the breeze, You need not care for that. It will not fall until it sees The shining new silk hat.
—New York Telegram.

THE farmer is more important than his farm, and the most important crop he raises is not corn nor hogs, but boys and girls. The success of a farmer is not measured so much by the money he makes as it is by the happiness he brings to himself and to his family. One of the surest ways of accomplishing this end is by making the home surroundings attractive.

There is no place on earth where it is easier to have an attractive home than on the farm. Yet in spite of this too many farm homes are located in the middle of a weed patch that goes by the name of garden or are hidden behind such a thick jungle of trees that it is impossible to see in or out.

The first thing to consider is the house itself. It should be situated on the highest part of the hill on which the farm buildings stand. A house need not be expensive to be homelike and convenient. Indeed, the most expensive houses are often the least homelike.

The starting point is the cellar. With but little additional expense this can be made the full size of the house. In this case the foundation walls should extend to the bottom of



FIG. XXXIII.—FARM HOME BARE AND DESOLATE FROM LACK OF TREES, SHRUBS AND LAWN.

the cellar. The first course should be of hollow brick, in end to end, and connecting with a drain on the lowest side. In this way seepage water will be kept out of the cellar. A cement floor is a great advantage and is inexpensive, since the cement need not be more than two or three inches thick.

The cellar should be divided into about four rooms. Hollow brick make good partition walls and at the same time help support the floor. One of the rooms may be used for vegetables, one for fruit, milk and butter, one for a laundry and the fourth cemented on the inside and used as a cistern. If the furnace is used another room will be necessary, or the cistern can be located outside.

For an ordinary sized family a hundred barrel cistern is about the right size. A partition of a double layer of filter brick, with gravel and charcoal packed between, should extend across it. The water is drawn out from the opposite side of the filter from that to which the pipe from the roof empties. In this way the water obtained is pure enough for cooking or drinking. A plentiful supply of soft water is a luxury that can be obtained so cheaply that no one can afford to do without it.

Wood is still the cheapest and most satisfactory building material. In building the house the two extremes of size should be avoided. If the house is too small it will be crowded, while if too large it costs more and is harder to keep clean.

In arranging the rooms, convenience and ease of keeping in order are the chief considerations. The large and solemn "spare room," which was opened only on state occasions, has largely given way to the bright, cheerful living room with its bookcases and work and reading tables, which is used every day and evening in the year. This room, together with the dining room, kitchen and bedroom, with a wash and bath room if possible, will comprise the first story.

A wash room, with a sink and a place for overshoes, coats and hats, is a great help in keeping dirt out of the kitchen. A bathroom is also a great convenience.

A cupboard in the wall between the kitchen and dining room is handy, as the dishes can be reached from either side. A spring door between the two rooms keeps out the flies and at the same time opens easily. A bedroom on the ground floor is almost a necessity, especially in the case of sickness.

The upstairs will of course be largely devoted to bedrooms, although it is often convenient to have one small room fixed up for a library. The attic makes a good storeroom for seed corn.

Probably the most satisfactory way to heat the house is by a furnace. This is cheaper and cleaner than stoves. If the furnace room is made large enough to hold a load of coals and several tons of coal the work of fire building will be greatly reduced. A register in the hall upstairs will be enough to take the chill off the sleeping rooms. It is a good plan to have a furnace pipe run to the kitchen, too, and use a gasoline or kerosene range for cooking. This is cheaper, handier and cleaner than a cook stove, and the kitchen can be kept much cooler in the summer time.

Most farm homes are very poorly lighted. A kerosene lamp is dirty, smells bad and does not give very much light. A gasoline lamp is much better. Best of all is the acetylene gas system. After this is once installed it can be operated cheaply and will furnish an abundant supply of light.

The water system is another thing in which farmhouses are behind those in the city. There is scarcely a house in a town of any size but that is provided with water and sewage systems. In the country these are the exception rather than the rule, yet they can be put in at a small cost.

An air tight tank in the cellar is sometimes used to supply the pressure for a farm water system, but is rather expensive. The water can also be drawn from the elevated tank at the barn, if one is used there, the only disadvantage in this case being that cistern water cannot be used. On the whole, the most satisfactory plan is to have a small galvanized tank in the attic. A little covering in the coldest weather will keep it from freezing, and a few minutes work with the cistern pump each day will keep it filled.

By having a heater attached to the furnace or to the kitchen stove and making the proper connections hot and cold water can be supplied to the bathroom, the wash room and anywhere else that is wanted.

The laundry room downstairs is the place where the convenience of such a system will be appreciated most. In this room the washing machine, tubs, wringer and other utensils can be kept. An opening in the floor connected with the tile drain will carry off the waste water, and hot and cold water from upstairs will be always on tap. Such a room, together with the entire water system, can be fitted up for less than \$100.

Another convenience that can be installed at small cost is a sewerage system. This can be connected with the bathroom and sink, and with a small additional expense another luxury that is seldom found on the farm, an indoor closet, can be added. Drain pipe well cemented at the joints should be used in constructing the sewer. The cheapest form of outlet is the "septic tank." This is a small underground tank divided into four compartments, so arranged that when the first of these becomes full it will overflow into the second, and so on. The tank should be covered and provided with a ventilator. The action of bacteria in the septic tank will destroy all the solid matter, so that the water which flows out the lower end will be clear and have no objectionable odor. With an occasional cleaning out such a tank will last forever.

The house should be provided with plenty of porches. These increase the expense somewhat, but also add much to the comfort and appearance of the house. Vines trained up over them to keep out the sun and screens to keep out the flies make them still more comfortable.

Nothing adds more to the external appearance of the house than a neat lawn of ample size. Do not make it



FIG. XXXIV.—A CORNER OF A NEATLY ARRANGED LAWN.

too large, however, or the work of mowing will be likely to be neglected. A lawn is not hard to make. A little work leveling and preparing a fine seed bed and a liberal application of blue grass seed that will grow will almost certainly result in a good lawn.

Do not make the common mistake of planting trees too close to the house. They detract from the appearance and make the house close and stuffy. The opposite extreme should be avoided also. A few trees about the edges of the lawn furnish grateful shade and provide a banking for the picture of which the house is the central figure.

The decorative value of shrubs is often not appreciated as much as it should be. A climbing rosebush over the porch or a few dwarf varieties in out of the way corners will add to the color and beauty of the yard. There are many other flowering shrubs, such as snowballs, syringas and lilacs, that can be used to fill in empty spaces and corners.

A row or two of hard maples or elms along the driveway, with a thick evergreen windbreak to the north, will furnish the supply of necessary trees unless there are corners or bare spaces about the yards that will be better for a tree or two.

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'Tis best to have a grumbling spring
And wait the coming of the spring.
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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LAW POINTS.

Tender of the amount due at any time before sale under a foreclosure where a chattel mortgage is a mere lien is held in Thomas versus Seattle Dredging and M. Co. (Wash.), 94 Pac. 116, 15 L. R. A. (N. S.), 1164, to discharge the lien.
That one cannot avoid his contract to purchase stock of a corporation on the ground that it was not legally organized or that stock was not legally issued is declared in Burwash versus Ballou, 230 Ill. 34, 82 (N. E.), 335, 15 L. R. A. (N. S.), 409.

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9:55 "	2.5 Island City	1:35 Lv
10:00 "	8.3 Alsea	1:40 "
10:10 "	12.3 Imbler	1:25 "
10:30 "	20.9 Elgin	1:00 "
		p.m.
11:25 "	32.2 Palmer Jct.	11:35 "
11:30 "	33.7 Looking Glass	11:30 "
		p.m.
12:45 "	47.1 Minam	10:30 "
2:00 "	60.0 Wallowa	9:00 "
2:45 "	67.8 Lostine	8:15 "
3:45 "	78.0 Enterprise	7:30 "
4:45 Arr	83.8 Joseph	7:15 "
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