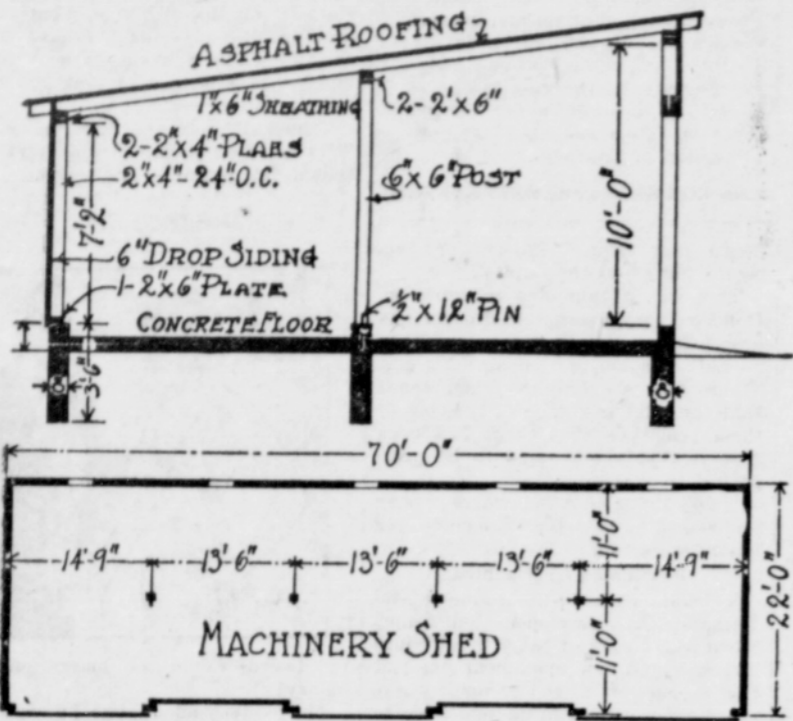
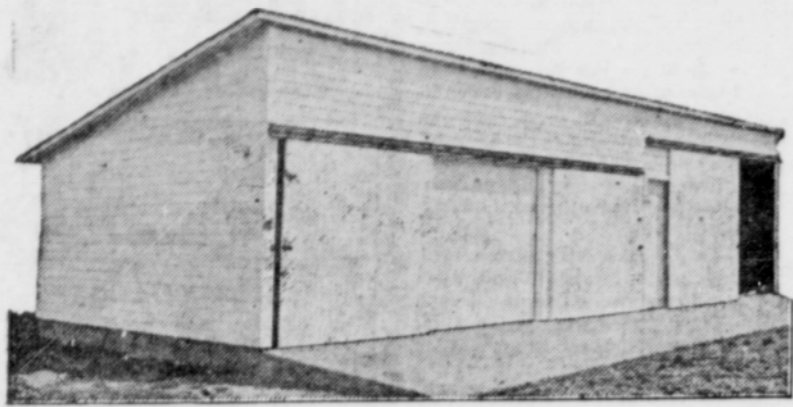


Good Implement House Will Pay for Itself Long Before It Wears Out



By W. A. RADFORD

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all problems pertaining to the subject of building work on the farm, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as editor, author and manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on the subject. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Illinois farmers lose \$1,387,500 annually through their failure to house farm machinery and protect it from the weather, according to R. I. Shaw, a member of the farm mechanics department at the college of agriculture, University of Illinois. Ten per cent, or \$22,200,000 worth, of farm machinery in the state is left out in the open, he says. As a result the average life of it is reduced from sixteen years to eight years, as shown in statistics gathered by agricultural colleges. Since this \$22,200,000 worth of machinery lasts only eight years, the annual depreciation on it is \$2,775,000, whereas if it were properly housed and protected it would last sixteen years and the annual depreciation would then be reduced to \$1,387,500. Similar results could be obtained in all sections of the country.

Pretty Houses Attract More to Neighborhood

One beautiful home of assured permanence attracts others of the same value and hereby increases its own value as well as the real estate values of the community.

This attraction is made stronger when the construction is of a type which increases the fire-safety of the locality. The better residence sections of most communities recognize this in their building restrictions. Furthermore, the wise home-builder looks forward to the possible time when he may want to sell his house. Will it depreciate heavily with the passing years, or will it show increased value? The homes covered with portland cement stucco will, as a rule, increase in value as the years go by, because they are permanent in construction and their appearance improves with age.

Old but well-built houses may be rejuvenated and their appearance changed at a minimum cost with portland cement stucco. Excellent examples of such work are found in almost every community.

An exterior envelope of stucco, a new porch, a sun parlor, perhaps new windows, will bring about a complete transformation.

Lime Mortar Stands Test After Years

Cement was not used in this country in the earliest work as it had not been at that time rediscovered, but the lime mortar used in buildings that stand today was of a wonderful quality. Great care was used in procuring proper sand and the lime was slaked and allowed to cure in pits for months or even a year before it was to be used. Evidently, too, the relative proportion of lime to sand was exactly right and the result was that the walls were more waterproof at the joints than are those of today and the mortar still retains its tenacity.

Some Advice

Never buy a home that stands on salmon brick or has its footing courses barely bedded in top soil. Neither consider one where the mortar courses are soft, easily crumbled and show a tendency to run if broken. If you do, you may expect to see the mortar courses weather away until every line is sunken far back from the wall face.

In order to give full value, the machine shed should be properly designed and built. A good roof is important and it is desirable to have the shed built tight and equipped with close fitting doors to keep out sunlight, rain, snow and dust and to prevent chickens from getting into the building. The design of the shed should be such that machinery can be put in and taken out easily. In addition, the shed should be so located that no time and labor will be lost in getting back and forth between it and the fields. A third point is that the shed must be used by the farmer, since no money will be saved if the implements are left standing outside the building.

Aside from saving machinery, a good implement shed adds to the efficiency of the farm by providing favorable working conditions so that repairs, overhauling and adjustments can be made in the winter when both time and cheap labor are available to do such work. Indirect advantages which add to the value of shedding machinery are the saving in time required to limber up the machines and the fewer delays at critical times from the breaking of a part rusted or weakened by exposure.

Small House of Brick Has Low Upkeep Figure

By disseminating the information among small wage earners that the small brick house actually costs no more than a house of less durable construction, if the upkeep costs are taken into account for a period of ten or twelve years, we feel that this industry is rendering a real service.

And not only the wage earner, but people who are in easier financial circumstances do not always realize the truth of the economics of home building, taking one material as against another. And in the long run building the walls of homes with brick does not work a hardship on the lumber industry.

Government experts and others have pointed out that the forests of the country are diminishing at an alarming rate, and the present production of lumber cannot continue for a great many more years. To build homes of brick is to conserve lumber. Just as much wood is used in the interior of the house for partitions, floors and finish as would be used in a frame house, the only difference is that the outside walls are built of a material that will protect the inside lumber from decay and give it a life three to four times as long as if the whole house had been constructed of wood.

Built-In Mail Box Great Convenience

With a built-in wall mail box it is unnecessary for the householder to go outside either to mail letters or to receive incoming mail. These boxes, which are authorized for use in bungalows, residences, duplexes and all flat buildings having separate front entrances for each individual family, are made in three models to meet varying conditions of installation. All are adjustable to the exact thickness of the wall.

Cellar Stairs

More than likely the cellar stairs need attention. This is a fine time of year to give them a coat of dark colored durable paint that will make them neater in appearance and much easier to clean. The walls and hand rail are finished in white, thus through better lighting there is less danger of any one falling while going to the cellar to look after the furnace.

Horticultural News

PEAR BLIGHT IS EASY TO CONTROL

Cutting out and destroying in winter, the twigs and limbs of pear trees killed by blight during the growing season will control the destructive "fire blight" and eliminate the source of infection for the following year.

"Pear blight is produced by a bacterial germ," says G. W. Fant, extension plant disease specialist at the North Carolina state college. "This disease causes much concern to growers during the growing season, although it is during the winter months only that effective control measures can be put into practice. The disease is characterized by a death of the blossoms, young twigs and, later, the larger limbs, giving twigs of affected trees the appearance of having been scorched by fire. No method of control by spraying has yet been found due to the manner in which the disease works beneath the surface of the bark."

Twigs affected with fire blight can be distinguished in winter by the adhering dead leaves, and Mr. Fant states that it is a good practice to go over all affected trees during the dormant season and cut out, as far as possible, all blighted twigs. The cuts, he explains, must be made several inches below the lower limit of the canker in order to cut out all diseased wood. It is advisable also to disinfect the pruning implement after making each cut by dipping the implement into a solution of bichloride of mercury prepared in the proportion of one part of the material to 1,000 parts of water. This solution should be prepared in an earthen or wooden vessel. Pruning can be accomplished more easily if two sets of tools are used, keeping one set in the solution while the other is used for cutting. Pruning during the summer months has little value, states Mr. Fant.

Fire blight is not confined entirely to pears, although it is most prevalent on this tree. Apple trees are sometimes severely injured, however.

Prune All Fruit Trees

During Dormant Season

It is best to prune fruit trees during the dormant season any time after the leaves have fallen. Pruning done then has an invigorating effect on the trees, whereas an equal amount of pruning done in the summer weakens them, because it deprives the trees of foliage before that foliage has an opportunity to contribute to the fruit growth of the tree, according to Prof. Joseph Oskamp at the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y. It effects from pruning when the wood is frozen are usually considered unimportant because the wood is seldom injured from it.

The way the cut is made has a direct bearing on the healing of the wound. If a stub is left, decay is likely to start before the wound heals, so branches should be cut flush. Small wounds need no protection, but large ones should be painted with a thick white lead and oil paint. Here, too, the winter is most desirable, because during the summer the caustic action of the paint may hinder the healing of the wound.

Many different kinds of tools are available for pruning, but the most satisfactory work is done with those that are strong and sharp, regardless of the kind.

Prevent Orchard Damage

From Mice Gnawing Bark

Where the orchard has a heavy growth of grass or some crop around the trees, there is likely to be much damage during the winter from mice gnawing the bark. The first thing to do to prevent such damage is to clear away all the grass and rubbish from around the trunk of the tree. Some orchardists put a few shovelfuls of clean cinders in a circle of a foot or more around the base of the tree.

Another method of keeping down the mice in the orchard is the maintenance of poison stations which are kept baited throughout the year, and which are examined frequently.

The following special method of preparing bait for these orchard pests is suggested. Mix dry one-eighth of an ounce of powdered strychnine, one-eighth of an ounce of baking soda. Sift this mixture over one quart of rolled oats, heat oats in an oven until thoroughly warm, and pour over it six tablespoonsful of a mixture of three parts melted beef fat and one part melted paraffin. When this mixture cools it is ready for use.

If rabbits cause much damage enclose lower part of the trunk with a piece of wire screen or wood veneer.

Fruit Testing Association

The New York Fruit Testing Association has just held its annual meeting at the New York state experiment station at Geneva. The association was formed to test out under a wide range of soil and climatic conditions the new varieties of fruit originated by the fruit breeders at the state experiment station and believed by them to be worthy of further test by fruit growers. A new and promising fruit may not be a profitable fruit just because it is new.

HER OWN HAD COME TO HER

By JOHN ELKINS

(Copyright by W. G. Chapman.)

"FOR lo! my own shall come to me." The little thin woman in the rocker, darned stockings, kept saying this over and over in spite of the protest on her daughter's face.

"Well, why don't it come?" asked the girl starting to set the table.

"Perhaps I haven't had enough faith. But I keep on trying." And the calm, sweet face again bent over the work with just the faintest shadow across the patient lines.

"I know mother, you are a dear. I wish, too, I had more faith. But some days I get just desperate. The little, mean eighteen dollars a week I earn at that typewriter only keeps us alive. And this street is enough to give one nervous prostration."

"My dear, I thought it was very quiet and decent."

"Yes—but I'm ashamed to ask anyone here. If we could only move into a better neighborhood."

"But we couldn't afford it, dear."

"I know of some new flats in Benton place for no more than we pay here."

"How much room?" asked the mother.

"Oh, two rooms, a kitchenette and bath."

"But we couldn't do with that."

"We could manage. And it's just a swell entrance."

"But here we have a little garden, and—"

"And chickens," finished Florence disgustedly. "Chickens that are an awful bother."

"But they furnish us with nice fresh eggs, and—"

"And get into the yard next door. It's all right as long as no one lives there. But just wait till there's a tenant, and there'll be a row. Lady Grey is determined to go over there."

"Yes," sighed Mrs. Bennett. "I don't see what has got into that hen."

"I know, mother, you like the little patch of ground and the chickens—but I do want some of the good times other girls have. I could go with the people around here—but you know I don't care for them."

"No, dear, you wouldn't be your father's daughter if you did."

A fashionable neighborhood meant more to the dwellers in this small city than a cosmopolitan can well understand. It was the sized place where one calls on the new neighbor when she moves into the same block. Holly street with the small, poor houses, in which the Bennetts lived was well-nigh a reproach to mention in the good society of Brentford. Poor little Florence Bennett, pretty, bright and well educated felt the ostracism caused by the neighborhood. On her father's death, three years previously, leaving them penniless, they had moved to Brentford where an old friend had given Florence employment in his office. She was now twenty years old, and saw little prospect beyond the stenographer's small wages in her future. Office work was not to her taste.

"Yes, I suppose," sighed the mother, "you might get to know some people—some of our own kind—if we lived in a different street. But I always believe, dear, that what is ours will come to us."

"Yes, I know you love that old poem."

"For lo! my own shall come to me!" quoted the mother.

"But not by way of Holly street."

"Yes, even Holly street. Still if you want to move into one of those flats—"

"You wouldn't be happy there, dear." Florence kissed the little woman, choked down the sob in her throat, and went on getting the dinner.

The next morning she turned back as she was starting out. "Mother," she called. "They are painting the vacant house!"

"Why, so they are! I guess we're going to have neighbors!"

Workmen went in and out, and a man was preparing the ground for a small garden.

"Ah, ha!" cried Florence. "Now Lady Grey will have to go into retirement, or lose her neck."

"I'll watch her," protested Mrs. Bennett.

"Well, I don't want your job," laughed the girl as she swung off to the office.

That evening a tale of woe awaited her.

"Oh, Florence! Such a dreadful woman has moved in! Just a common creature with a thick brogue!"

"I told you your own wouldn't come to you by way of Holly street!"

Her mother being in the joking mood, went on: "She spoke to me—well, it was insulting!"

"I foresee Lady Grey made the first call."

"Yes, I thought I had stopped up that hole in the runway, but she got through, and the way that woman went for me. I don't know what we're going to do."

Two or three days after this, as Florence was taking a survey of their small grassy plot with its hardy annuals and shrubbery, a female voice hailed her over the fence. She turned and saw the owner gazing at her.

"Say, miss," she called, "I'd like ye to look after that hen o' yours,

or as thru' as I'm talkin' I'll look after her meself. Here's the row of phlox all mixed up wid the 'strutions, an' the sticks layin' galley west. It's enough to be tryin' the patience o' a holy saint, so it is!"

Florence heard a door open on the other side of the fence.

"Yes," she agreed. "I should think it would be. Mother thought she had fastened in Lady Grey. I'm very sorry. Did she get over there again?"

"Whether 't was Lady Grey or Lady White, she's a devil of a hen, an' if she comes over again, I'll—"

Here the torrent of words came suddenly to a stop with a masculine voice breaking in: "Margaret! Margaret! what is the matter?"

"Well, if yer wantin' a garden, just ye thray havin' it wid a hen!"

"But the lady has said she was sorry."

"Yes, indeed," said Florence, "and I promise you you will not be annoyed any more."

Here a rather good-looking young man emerged from obscurity. More explanations followed, and the militant lady went into the house. When Florence related the incident to her mother, the latter rejoined:

"I suppose she's taking boarders, and it'll be noisy and unpleasant with men roundin' in and out."

"I shouldn't suppose anything but day laborers would be likely to board in Holly street. But maybe he's a clerk on a small salary—still he spoke like a gentleman."

"A clerk can be a gentleman," added her mother.

"Yes," said the girl doubtfully. "He can be."

It was really quite astonishing, the way in which the acquaintance over the fence progressed, till one day Mrs. Bennett invited him in. Florence found she was glad he had been invited. When she found she was something more than glad, she began to be supremely disgusted with herself.

Where were her dreams of a finer, fuller life? To marry a poor clerk meant to go on living in Holly street. No, no, it was unthinkable.

"This place must look very dingy to you after your shining new paint in there," she said to him.

"No," he said, "it looks very cozy, very homey." He took in the ample library table, the shaded lamp, the books, and the good pictures on the walls. "It looks very much as I thought it would."

"We've asked time and again to have this room papered and painted, but that miserable old skinkint of an owner won't do it. It seems he had to, next door."

"Did you ever see the owner?" he asked.

"No, I don't even know his name. The agent said he wouldn't."

"I think he will," said the young man.

"Mr. Royal! But how do you know?"

"Well, you see, I work for him in the silk factory."

"Does he own that, too? Well, he's worse than a skinkint!"

"No, he's a decent fellow, if he is a millionaire. It's the agent who's to blame."

The speedy way in which the cottage was overhauled, and everything done just as Florence and her mother wished convinced them that young Mr. Royal must have some "pull."

The love route is sometimes subject to fluctuations, but this one seemed to progress steadily. One day he put the important question:

"I'm getting only twenty-five a week now, but I'm promised a raise. Would you be willing to live on that?" he asked.

"I've got to think of mother," she answered. "If you'd let me go on with my typewriting—"

"No, no," he demurred. "I want to be mothered a little, and I want to take care of you both. I don't want you to work in an office."

"I must say for a poor man, you have some foolish pride," she pouted. Then the next minute: "I don't care if it's only twenty, we'll manage."

When Mr. Royal again found his voice he announced that he would bring his father to call.

The old gentleman scrutinized his future daughter-in-law so searchingly she began to feel uncomfortable.

"Miss Bennett," he said, "I feel it is my duty to inform you that this young man has been telling you a perfect tissue of falsehoods."

"Father!" interposed the young man glancing at the surprised face of the girl going white with the shock of the revelation.

"It's true he is getting twenty-five a week, but as to a raise—"

"If that's all," she cried, "I don't care. We can live on it. If there's nothing against Mr. Royal's character—"

"Mr. Royal," sniffed the old man. "You rascal! you didn't even give your right name."

"What?" she gasped.

"Now, never mind, Miss Bennett! It was just a part of his quixotic game. He wanted to see if you really cared for him. You're the right sort. I shall be very proud to have you for a daughter. I tried out Jack to see what he was made of. Now, I'm going to make him superintendent."

"Superintendent!" she echoed incredulously.

"Yes, you see I'm the owner, and the old skinkint who owns these houses. All I have will be the boy's. Just now I want him to take a vacation—for a honeymoon—and I want it to begin right away. Come here and kiss your father!"

Florence somewhat dazedly complied. Then she glanced at her mother who had taken the old gentleman's outstretched hand, and she knew her own had come to her.

Improved Uniform International Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of Day and Evening Schools, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for January 23

PRAYER IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

LESSON TEXT—Mark 1:35; 14:32-42; Matt. 6:9-13.
GOLDEN TEXT—Ask and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Talking to God.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Learning From Jesus How to Pray.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—What Jesus Taught by Prayer.

I. Jesus Praying in a Solitary Place (Mark 1:35).

After a series of most strenuous efforts Jesus retired to a lonely place to pray. He who the day before had shown His mighty power in casting out devils and banishing disease now needed to be alone with God. In order to do this He arose a long time before daylight. The very best time to pray is in the morning when our physical powers have been renewed. If the Son of God needed this time for prayer, this renewal of spiritual strength in communion with the Heavenly Father, how much more should we seek help by retiring to the solitary place.

II. Jesus Praying in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42).

In this time of crisis He took with Him Peter, James and John.

1. The first prayer (vv. 35-38).

(1) His posture (v. 35).
He fell on his face prostrate on the ground. In the hour of great need we naturally prostrate ourselves before God.

(2) His petition (v. 36).

"Take away this cup from me." By the cup is meant His death on the cross. No doubt it was most grievous for Him to face this shame, but He pressed on, knowing that for this cause He had come into the world (John 12:27, 28, cf. Heb. 2:14).

(3) His resignation (v. 38).

His will was in subjection to the Father. He knew that His death on the cross was the will of God, the Father, for He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

(4) The disciples rebuked (v. 37).

He singled out Peter since he had been the most conspicuous in proclaiming his loyalty (John 13:38).

(5) Extortion to the disciples (v. 38).

"Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation." The only way to be able to stand in the time of trial is to be watching and praying.

2. The second prayer (vv. 39, 40).

He withdrew the second time from the disciples and uttered the same words in prayer. This was not vain repetition. It is proper to repeat our requests. He found the disciples asleep again. Their shame and confusion were more marked than at first.

3. The third prayer (vv. 41, 42).

He uttered the same words in the third prayer (Matt. 26:44).

He tells the disciples to sleep on and take their rest as the hour had now come for His betrayal. There is such a thing as being asleep when wanted and awakening when it is too late. If the disciples had been praying they would not have fallen asleep.

III. Jesus Giving a Model Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13).

This model was given in response to the disciples' request that the Lord would teach them how to pray (Luke 11:10). It is not therefore the Lord's prayer, but the model prayer for the disciples. It involves:

1. A right relationship (v. 9).

"Our Father." Only those who become children of God by faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:26) can pray aright. One must be a child of God before he can be in communion with God.

2. A right attitude (vv. 9, 10).

"Hallowed be Thy name." When one realizes that he has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of His Son (Col. 1:13) by being made a child of God, he cannot help pouring out his soul in gratitude and praise, intensely longing for the kingdom, the righteous rule of Christ to come on the earth.

3. A right spirit (vv. 11-13).

(1) That of trust which looks to God for the supply of daily bread. We are dependent upon Him for our daily food. With all man's boasted progress he cannot make a harvest. The marvels of modern chemistry are insufficient for this.

(2) That of love which results in forgiveness of others. God will not listen to the prayer of one who has an unforgiving spirit.

(3) That of holiness which moves one to pray not to be led into temptation and longs to be delivered from the evil one.

"Soiled" Language

The language of some men is so "soiled" that it seems a proof that they were formed of the soil.—King's Business.

Things to Give Away

The Lord has a few things to give away if you can get where you can take them.—Echols.

Be a Gideon

God wants to make you a Gideon for His glory and His cause.—Echols.