

Attractions of WALES



Welshmen With Coracles.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

BOTH scenically and historically, the principality of Wales is one of the most alluring regions of the British Isles, yet comparatively few of the thousands of American tourists who make the transatlantic voyage include it in their itinerary. It is accessible, the hotel accommodations are admirable, the people hospitable, the highways irreprouchable, the summer climate delightful. But the average American traveler takes one glance at his guidebook or at the tourist-agency folder and decides to go to the English Lakes district, to Scotland, to the "Lorna Doone" country, or—Paris.

It lacks the courage to wrestle with such place names as Betws-y-Coed, Bodolwyddan, Dwygyfylchi, Clwyd, Llandudno, Pwllheli, and Pen-y-Gwryd.

If the traveler goes to a railway station to get his transportation, he cannot tell where he wishes to go. If a ticket agent in a tourist office asks whether he would prefer to go by this route or by that, with stop-over privileges here or there, the sounds convey to him no impression of any of the places he may have read about.

He may have equipped himself in advance by studying some "easy rule for pronouncing Welsh names," such as "To pronounce Ll, place the tip of the tongue back of the upper front teeth and blow through the side of the mouth." But if ever he imagined he could remember such rules, he forgets their practical application the moment he hears Glin-div'r-dool, meaning Glyndyfrdwy. It's so much simpler to go elsewhere!

Consequently, at tourist agencies the Welsh window never has a waiting line, and few clerks are able to give one advice as to where to go, how long to stay, and how to come back.

Scenery is Beautiful.

It is a pity, for within this little principality, having an area considerably smaller than New Jersey, one will find the loftiest peak and the finest mountain scenery of England and Wales; the loveliest waterfalls of the British Isles; beaches which rival those of Atlantic City, Deauville or Brighton; streams that teem with trout and other fish dear to the heart of the angler; footpaths through vale and forest which cannot be surpassed in the Tyrol or the Pyrenees; and the gray ruins of tessellated towers and frowning bastions, each of which has its own tale to tell of romantic adventure and of daring in the Dark or Middle Ages, when English kings battled ceaselessly to curb turbulent Welsh princes whose chief end and aim in life was warfare.

The courageous visitor who steels himself to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous orthography and even more outrageous pronunciation of proper names, and decides upon a week-end in Wales faces three instead of the proverbial two horns of a dilemma. Shall he visit northern Wales, middle Wales, or southern Wales?

Each section has its definite appeal and each its peculiarities. The guidebook does not help in reaching a decision. Suppose one takes at random northern Wales, the section from which David Lloyd George, the empire's wartime prime minister, hails. The gateway to this region is that unique city of western England, Chester, with its mellow old cathedral, its fine walls and its other-days' atmosphere. By taking an early morning train from London, the hurried visitor is enabled to have a sufficient stopover in the border town to convince him that he must return for a longer visit.

Crossing the River Dee, the train enters Wales, bound for Carnarvon, 99 miles distant by way of Rhyl, Conway and Bangor. Within a mile or two of the railway line, and just six miles southwest of Chester, rises Hawarden castle, famous in Welsh history and as the residence of Queen Victoria's great "Home Rule" premier, Gladstone.

On the right for many miles stretch those fatal sands of Dee across which Charles Kingsley's Mary went to "call the cattle home," and never home came she.

In the afternoon the train reaches Carnarvon, a community which con-

centrates more history in smaller space than any other town in Wales.

Carnarvon Castle. Wandering up the main street and turning a corner, the visitor is suddenly face to face with one of the finest castles in Great Britain. Built entirely of hewn stone, the imposing structure stands on the peninsula formed where the River Selont flows into the Menai strait.

Every room in the great building has its legend, each dear to the stentorian guide, whose indignant protest to an incredulous tourist greets us down the full length of the corridor which once gave entrance to the noble banquet hall 100 feet long and 45 feet wide.

There are those who would take the "Oh!" out of all history, leaving it devoid of color and sentiment. They have been busy with Carnarvon castle, trying to rob it of its most cherished tradition; but since the present bearer of the title thought there was sufficient basis for the story to warrant his investiture in this castle in 1911, we shall prefer to accept the legend that here was born the first English prince of Wales, 639 years ago.

The story is a familiar one. During the reign of Edward I, the Welsh rose against the English, declaring that they would never acknowledge allegiance to any prince "but of their own nation and language and of an unblamable life."

Edward brought his army to Wales and put down the rebellion led by Llewelyn the Last. He then commissioned his famous architect, Henry de Eilreton, to build castles at Conway, Carnarvon, Criccieth and Harlech, as strongholds from which in future he might hold his turbulent subjects in check.

During his long stay in Wales, Edward's queen, Eleanor, visited him at Carnarvon, and in a small room in the so-called Eagle tower of the unfinished castle he who was to be Edward II was born.

From the towers of this stronghold, which one historian declares was built within a year by the forced labor of Welsh peasants and with money wrung from the country's chieftains, we can survey the scenes of many of the most stirring episodes of Welsh history.

Eisteddfods at Twt Hill. A short distance from the castle is Twt Hill, below which is an immense pavilion capable of seating 8,000 persons, and yet its capacity is greatly overtaxed whenever an Eisteddfod is held in Carnarvon.

The Eisteddfodau are among the most distinctive and inspiring institutions preserved for sixteen hundred years by the Welsh. They are the famous festivals of song, music and poetry where Welsh bards participate in contests comparable only to those of the ancient Greeks, except that here the competition is exclusively intellectual and artistic, with no place for athletics in the program.

The national Eisteddfod has been held annually since 1819, in northern Wales and southern Wales alternately.

One of the spectacular feats at an Eisteddfod is the "penillion" singing, in which the poets compose their songs after the harpist has begun his melody. Each poet in turn sings his verse, beginning two measures behind the harpist, but ending on the same measure. The contestant who is able to improvise worthy verses longest wins one of the most cherished honors of the festival.

Illustrative of the importance which music plays in the life of the Welshman, there was a wartime anecdote which told of eight Britons who were found in a dugout after a 12-hour bombardment. The two Irishmen were still fighting, the two Scotchmen were holding a debate, the Englishmen had not yet been introduced, but the two Welshmen were busy organizing an oratorio society.

At a recent Eisteddfod held in the village of Ammanford, South Wales, there were more than 18,000 spectators, including Welshmen who had returned for the occasion from the four corners of the world—from the United States, from Canada, from Australia and New Zealand, from India, Patagonia, and even the Fiji Islands.

The choruses, solos and contests in poetry, history and criticism last for several days and continue from early morning until late at night.

ORCHARD GLEANINGS

SPRING PRUNING OF BERRY BUSHES

The pruning of blackberries and raspberries at this time of year is most important, since it will affect the size and quality of the fruit produced this summer. It may be done satisfactorily any time from now until growth starts, says J. Harold Clark, instructor in pomology at the college of agriculture in New Brunswick, N. J. If the plants are carefully pruned, they will be more vigorous and although fewer fruits may be produced, the increase in size will be great enough so that there will be no decrease in total yield. Plants that are pruned annually will remain vigorous and productive much longer than unpruned ones. Pruning is also essential if the plantation is to be cultivated efficiently and the fruit picked economically.

Blackberries and raspberries have biennial canes which bear fruit the year after they are formed, and then die. The first pruning operation, therefore, will be to remove these dead canes, as well as weak canes which would bear very little fruit. It is recommended that the old canes be removed as soon as the crop is picked, but often it is not done then, owing to lack of time.

Canes of blackberries and black raspberries should be headed back to a height of 2 to 3 feet, and the laterals shortened to a length of 12 to 18 inches, depending upon the vigor of the individual plant. Summer pinching of the canes when they reach the desired height is recommended, since it is desirable to have the fruiting area fairly close to the ground and on a stocky cane with several laterals, rather than have it on a long unbranched cane which is apt to bend to the ground under a heavy crop.

Red raspberries do not have these strong lateral branches and should be headed back to 2 or 3 feet, depending upon the apparent vigor of the plant.

Manure Benefits Heavy Soil in Fruit Orchard

Applied to orchards on a heavy soil, the benefits of manures are equally advantageous, or even more so than those on light soils. While the latter are made more compact, the reverse situation is true with the heavier soils. They become lighter and easier to work. The individual soil particles are kept from running together and thus there is less baking of the surface after a rain or irrigation. The larger the proportion of straw in the manure applied, the greater will be the extent to which this will be true. Combining the chemical and physical effects of manure in the soil, it would seem difficult to find a more suitable fertilizer for orchards. While the chemical plant food elements which it contains are not so readily available for the plant's use, as is the case with some commercial fertilizers, it accomplishes the important purpose of adding the humus element of most soils—humus. In some sections a much more satisfactory cover crop growth—further increasing the organic matter of the soil—is secured following the application of manures.

The rate of application usually depends upon the available supply. Generally speaking, there is no danger of putting on too much. Ten tons per acre, however, every two years is considered a very fair application, although twice that amount will do no harm. Apply in the fall or winter and plow under early the following spring in order that the process of decay may begin before there is a lack of moisture.

Profitable to Buy All Orchard Supplies Early

"The early bird catches the worm" is a saying as widely known as any in the English language. The truth of its application is very great.

There is considerable doubt in the minds of most fruit growers at the present time whether they are birds or worms. In fact, the general opinion seems to favor the latter view. It will pay the fruit grower well to buy his supplies early and through some organization that gets the lowest possible prices.

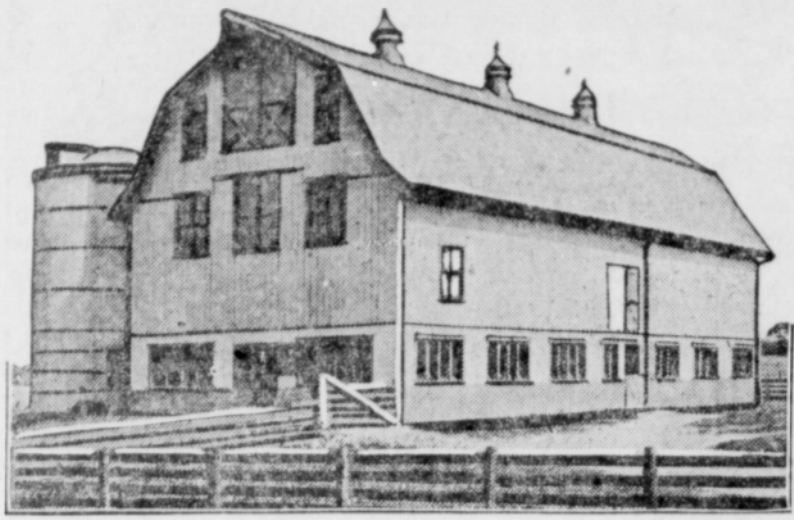
Think about your future requirements now. You may need arsenate of lead, blue stone, ammonium sulphate, nitrate of soda or many other supplies. Often big savings can be made by buying now before the peak demand is reached for these materials. It is not uncommon to get large discounts for early payment. Few farmers have all the money they need for working capital but many have borrowing power with their local bank and can thus take advantage of these discounts.

Crown Gall Pest

A nursery pest which is sometimes found on young trees is the crown gall. This is a bacterial disease which is indicated by tumors or swellings near the crown or at the point where the graft was made or by an immense number of fine hair-like roots growing from the same point. Trees infected with this disease should be burned.

The future growth and health of an orchard tree will average much higher if care is taken to exclude this pest at planting time.

Good Dairy Barn, if Properly Built, Is Good Investment for the Farm



By WILLIAM 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. 1327 Prairie avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only inclose two-cent stamp for reply.

A modern dairy barn with its silo and yard demands fully as careful planning as the farmhouse and its attendant buildings. Just as the farmhouse must serve its occupants the whole year through, so does the dairy barn serve the herd day by day, for even in summer its care adds to the ever-present chores.

A dairy barn cannot be bought like so many yards of gingham or like the lumber for a fence. It must be carefully planned with the requirements of the herd in view, likewise for the cutting down of unnecessary labor. All the modern developments in sanitation, which mean so much to the farmer in the profitable production and sale of dairy products, must be considered and followed to the best of the builder's ability. Light is equally as important as cleanliness, and proper ventilation and drainage not only ease up the work but keep the herd in a condition which removes any particular worry over sickly or unhealthy cows.

Of course, stalls, mangers, gutters, alleys and pens are nowadays standardized units which can be installed in any barn, regardless of its style and size. But our object is the planning of a particular barn as a whole, like the one illustrated.

This one was carefully located with reference to the other buildings of the farm. It was placed a distance of 200 feet from the house, and in a direction which sheltered it from the direct blow of hot summer winds. This left the open yard running across the south and east angle, with the barn's long axis north and south. By this means sunlight was invigilated into the stalls as much as possible.

The ceiling height is 8½ feet, and the well-proportioned gambrel roof gives fine hay storage space above. The width of the main structure is 36 feet; the length, over all, is 94 feet, and two rows of stalls run lengthwise of the barn. As a general rule it will be found that the width of a dairy barn is best kept between 32 and 38 feet. This width makes the framing less an expense than it otherwise might be, and with a greater

Light Wood Is Style Now in Home Building

In any decorative scheme don't forget to consider the color of the woodwork.

When the wood used for window and door trim is oak, cypress, maple or birch or any wood with a beautiful grain, a waterproof varnish will give luster and bring out the grain.

Woods vary in shade from light to dark brown or red. The color scheme of the room should be kept in similar tones or warm colors. Contrasting colors can then be used in some of the furnishings to give the room animation.

Light woodwork is very fashionable. And there are excellent varnish stains and enamels on the market that will give just the shade or tint in the woodwork that the color scheme of the room demands.

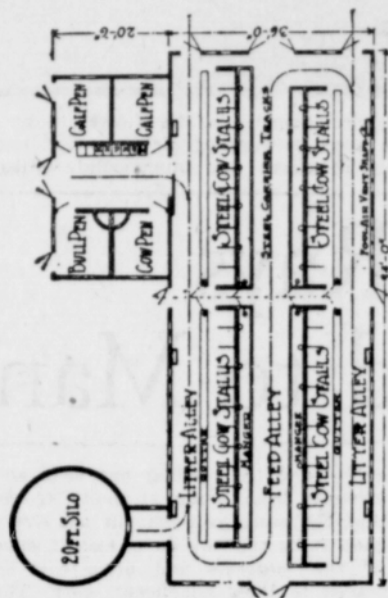
Varnish stains color the wood and let the grain show through. Enamels give a solid coat of color that is rich and satiny in its texture. The range of colors is wide, and manufacturers give explicit directions for securing any tint or shade desired. Of course, the most satisfactory finishes are absolutely waterproof and can be washed without injury to gloss or color.

Privacy Is Not Only Use for Window Shade

The possibilities that lie in the correct use of window shades should be considered.

Too often people look on them only as a means of obtaining privacy in the home. They do not realize that shades have another very important use. Shades play a big part in carrying out the interior and exterior decorative scheme of every room. In fact, shades often play such an important part as to be the keynote of the color scheme.

Imagine for a moment that the housewife has worked out a pleasing and novel color scheme in her windows with some unwarranted color but does not harmonize with the other



width the storage of hay becomes more unsatisfactory and the light is cut off from the inside to a great extent. Of course the objection to width does not apply to length. This latter dimension can be made to fit the herd requirements, and the barn even required around in an L or U shape, to give a more sheltered yard.

Observe that the cows face a central feed alley, equipped with steel carrier tracks. This gives entrance by two doors, and lessens the danger of crowding in and out, there is better light for milking, the gutters get the sanitation value of sunlight, and the ventilating system does not present any particular problem in order to function satisfactorily. The litter alleys have steel carrier tracks which make this part of the chores something taken care of easily and with dispatch.

The stalls are 3 feet 6 inches wide; the length of stall platform from curb to gutter is 4 feet 8 inches. The mangers can be of metal, wood or concrete, and of a style, width and height which discourage bossy from snoutting too much feed into the alley. The drinking troughs each serve two cows.

Adjoining are cow pen, bull pen and calf pens. The alleys are necessary at calving time, and might serve with the cow pen as a hospital when cows are sick. Or, bossy may be segregated for the purpose of testing on milk and butter yield over a certain period. The floor is of concrete, with wood block or cork brick standing platform. Drains serve the bottom of each manger and gutter, leading out to a concrete manure receiving pit.

Porch Found Desirable Place to Build Closets

Closets on the back porch, or even built-in under the back porch, provide a safe and cool place in which to keep certain provisions or articles that are needed about the backyard.

You will find such closets so convenient you will wonder how you got along without them. The butcher and other delivery men can place their packages in the closet when you are not at home and the contents will be safe from dogs and cats.

Such closets can be placed on porches already built and can be located across the end, or against the wall of the house. Almost any good, serviceable color will be satisfactory for the exterior, but it should be in keeping with the house. You will probably want to enamel in white or ivory for the sake of cleanliness. If you desire to decorate the front or visible portions simply outline the door panels or other portions in a contrasting color or a lighter tint of the ground color.

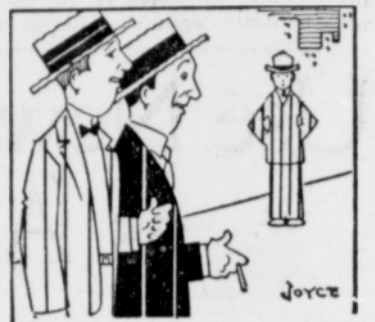
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Adrift With Humor

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

"Oh, daddy," said the young lady; "Mrs. Jones said you were the handsomest man on our street."
"What's that?" asked the father.
There was a brief silence, then the daughter shook her head and said, "Well, I guess it's true, all right."
"What's true?" asked the father.
"That every time you compliment a man he makes you repeat it!"—Christian Science Monitor.

TROUBLESOME VOWELS



"Can't he speak plainly? I heard him say certain vowels gave him trouble."
"Oh, he was referring to his L. O. U's."

Our Sham World

"All that glitters is not gold." But here's the truth, though bitter. Lots of people that we know are satisfied with glitter.—The American Boy Magazine.

An Accident

"My wife had a motor accident yesterday."
"I'm sorry. Was there much damage done?"
"A fair amount. A smashed-up back and several screws loose."
"Your poor wife!"
"Oh, you were referring to her? She only got a broken leg."—Karl-katuren, Oslo.

Short and Sweet

Simpson was on his deathbed and the doctor had been detailed to tell him there was no hope.
"I hope you broke the news to him gently," sobbed the tearful wife.
"Oh, yes," replied the physician briskly. "I told him if he had any bills to pay he'd better not wait till the first of the month."—American Legion Monthly.

The Flirt on the Phone

"Hello! Peggy speaking—who is this?"
"It's Frank, sweetheart."
"I can't understand you."
"Listen—F for Ferdie, R for Robert, A for Arthur, N for Nat and K for Kenneth."
"But dearest, which one of the five are you?"

NOT PRESERVED



"And the poor thing was caught in the frightful jam."
"What happened to her?"
"Mashed to a jelly."

Word With Many Meanings

Fast is the way to stand.
Yet, too, I know.
It is the way I ought
Not be—or go.

Sign of Age

Doctor—Your father seems hale and hearty at the age of one hundred and four.
Mountaineer—Yep, but pap's slipping! 'Other day I heard him say he reckoned he'd take up the game of golf.

Why Not?

Revenue Collector—So you object to paying inheritance tax?
Jones—Sure, I do. The lawyers got the inheritance—let them pay the tax!

A Great Lesson Here

"Now, honey boy, get busy and make a million dollars."
"Can't you love me unless I have a million dollars?"
"A little less might do, but the modern girl does not love in a small way."

Between Girls

"I could never like that man."
"Then why are you engaged to him?"
"I never carry my dislikes to extremes."