

This must not exist in the dual-purpose cow. Here we want a well-arched rib, springing almost horizontally from the backbone, and of semicircular form, giving a rounded barrel. This is necessary in order that we may have a thick-fleshed back, and a large proportion of the best cuts in the carcass. How far this form operates against milk production, is a matter of controversy. My own opinion is that it has very little to do with it. The third quality is thriftiness—the ability to make good use of food, as necessary for milk as for beef production. From a milking standpoint, the dual-purpose cow must have a good udder, good milk veins, and, above all, good performance. My own experience is that it is quite possible to get cows of good beef form, capable of producing steers of excellent beef quality, which can profitably be finished at three years of age, at 1,400 to 1,500 pounds; and, at the same time, for these cows to give from \$45 to \$50 at the milk pail, besides feeding their calves on new milk, whole, until they are a month old.

It is true, as you say in your editorial, that the show-ring is, or has been, no place for this class of cattle. The fact that the highest excellence of form, whether from a beef or dairy standpoint, is not commonly found in this class of cattle, tells heavily against them, for the show-ring can take no account of general usefulness, or of anything other than appearance at the time of showing. To my mind, this has worked to the great injury of the Shorthorn breed. This breed attained its great popularity as a farmer's cow largely on account of its dual-purpose character. This character has largely disappeared from our leading herds because of a short-sighted devotion to show-ring standards. As a result, the Shorthorn has lost ground to the dairying breeds as the farmer's cow. If this ground is to be regained, it is necessary that Shorthorn breeders should pay some attention to milk production. This will involve some changes in the methods followed by our breeders at the present time. The nurse cow which relieves the mother of milk production, after a very short period of lactation, will have to disappear. Not only this, but cows used for the production of breeding stock will have to be milked in the manner of dairy cows, and every effort put forth to cultivate the habit of milk production. The Shorthorns are very susceptible to such training, and a great improvement may be expected from this course of action. Besides, your suggestion of a milking record for Shorthorn cows is an exceedingly good one, as it will enable the prospective purchaser to see at once what milking qualities he may expect to find in the stock before him—a much surer guide than any qualities of mere form can be. By taking these steps to encourage the milking qualities of the Shorthorn cattle, the breeders of this breed will confer a lasting benefit, not only on themselves, but on the farmers of this Province generally.

E. C. DRURY.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

KING EDWARD AS A FARMER.

The rich crop of prizes which the King's cattle and sheep have won at the Bingley Hall Show, Birmingham, is the latest demonstration of His Majesty's success as a farmer, of which he is so deservedly proud. When the King began breeding, nearly forty years ago, the Sandringham farm lands were in an almost hopeless condition—barren, and barely capable of cultivation. Today, according to Rider Haggard, "It is a wonderful farm, for nowhere is so much high-bred stock to be seen on the same area." But probably nowhere will you find such an array of plates and cups won at shows as that which Sandringham boasts. At a single exhibition, His Majesty once won no fewer than fourteen first prizes. In 1903 he captured five first prizes and cups, in addition to numerous seconds and thirds; in 1904 his prizes numbered twenty; in 1905 he won a champion plate, a challenge cup, and eighteen other prizes, including four firsts; while last year he won at the Smithfield Show, ten

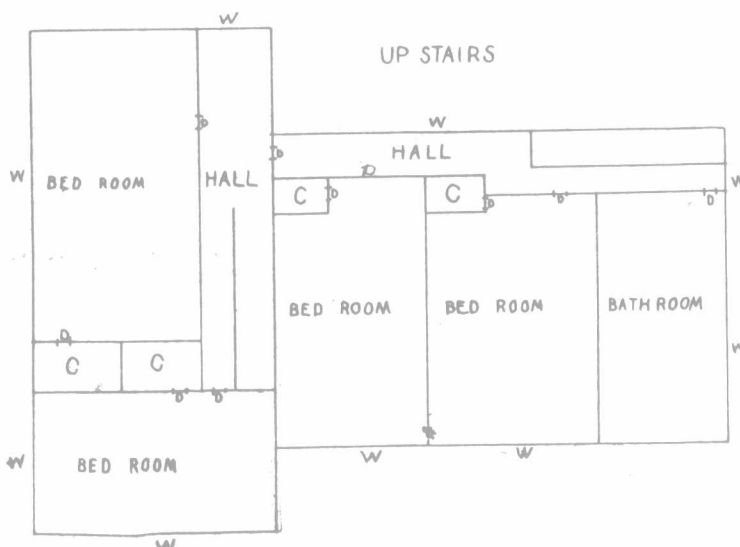
firsts, nine "breed" cups and plates, six other prizes, and several "highly commends," and every prizewinner he has bred himself.—[Westminster Gazette.]

THE FARM.

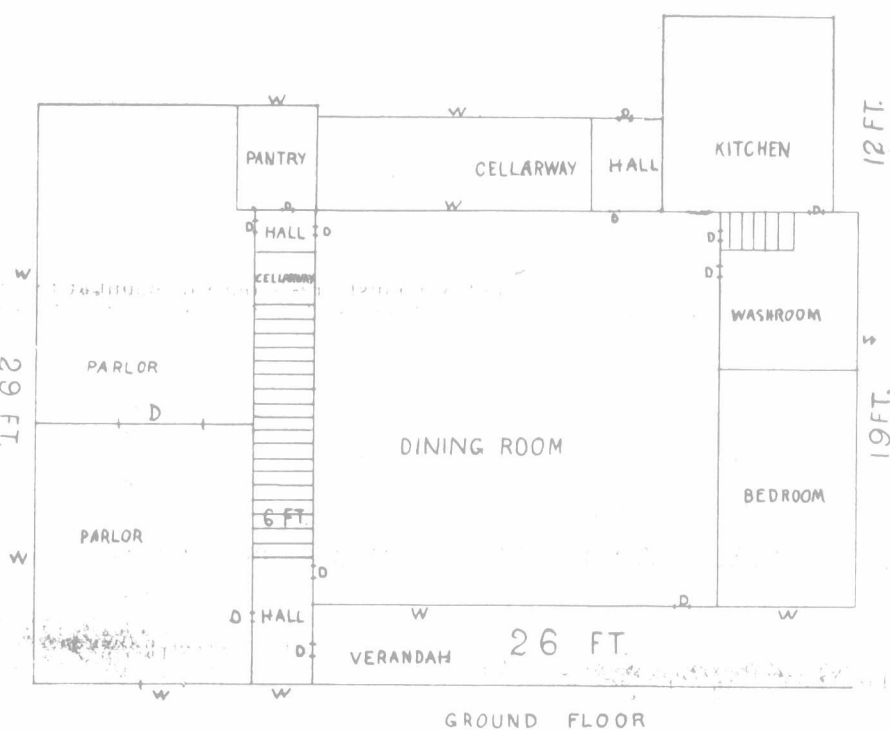
LET US BEAUTIFY THE LAND.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We are always waiting for "The Farmer's Advocate" to come, as there is always something to interest us in our daily work. We would suggest that you keep forever hammering along the line of "forestry," and planting around farm homes generally. The greatest mistake I see our farmers making is cutting away the shelter that a kind Providence provided for us. While the care and maintenance of live stock is the most important of a farmer's work, his next duty is, or should be, to beautify the great heritage which has been given us, and, in doing so, "we can make our lives sublime, and, departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time." Wish you a prosperous New Year, W. F. J.



Upstairs Plan of Mr. Bell's House.



Ground-floor Plan of Mr. Bell's House.

By mistake of engravers a window was omitted in the south side of the back parlor. They have also represented the south side of the house by the top of the cut, whereas it should be the reverse.

MR. BELL'S FARMHOUSE.

The accompanying cuts represent the farmhouse of Mr. Wm. Bell, of Middlesex County, Ontario, built in 1903, at a cost of \$2,000, including furnace, but not his own work, the stone quarried on the farm, or the board of men working on contract. The dimensions of the main part of house are 20 x 29 feet, the other part 19 x 26 feet, and the kitchen 11 x 12 feet. The house is of white brick, with basement full size, of stone masonry. A windmill supplies water from well to barn, and house from elevated outside tank. Cattle in stalls are watered from individual cast-iron basins, galvanized. The heating, by hot-air furnace, is satisfactory, wood only being used as fuel up to this time.

SETTING FENCE POSTS, AND OPENING DITCHES

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As this is the season of the year when farmers have more or less time at their disposal, when they can receive and impart practical information, a few words from a subscriber may be of benefit to both writer and reader.

Relative to the matter of fencing, which is becoming of necessity, viewed from the standpoint of permanence, coupled with economy, an important one, I wish to ask have any of your readers resorted to the using of concrete, either in part or in toto, for fence posts, and with what results, relative to the cost of material, time, etc.? If none have tried the following plan, what is the opinion of the fencing public regarding it? Bore with an 8 or 9-inch auger a hole 3½ or 4 feet deep, which is below frost level; fill in bottom two feet of hole with small stone and concrete, then set in post (cedar or iron), 5½ or 6 feet long; if cedar, 4 or 5 inches thick; and if steel or iron, lighter material than that commonly used should do. Fill up hole with concrete, say 1 part cement to 6 or 8 of gravel, pounding well, and leaving it turned to shed water from post.

By having everything in readiness, with a team on a stone-boat, sufficient concrete can be drawn from mixing place to set a good many posts. I would like the opinion of some of your readers on this matter.

Many farmers build their own fences throughout. It has been found, when using other than woven wire, that, to first set end posts, of whatever material desired; then stretch bottom wire for a guide for lining; wire will not be found in the way for boring holes. Weight it down in the hollows. This insures a perfectly straight fence, without any extra trouble.

During the past fall I discovered a plan, which may or may not be new, but which I have found lessened the otherwise hard labor of digging a ditch fully 60 or 70 per cent. Plow two furrows each way. This will give a trench 6 inches deep, and 16 or 18 inches wide. By means of a chain, remove the eveners 3 or 4 feet from plow. This will allow the operator to guide the plow at will; also, the team to work at freedom. Place the furrow horse in the trench, and turn one furrow. Then shovel out. Reverse the team, keeping furrow horse in furrow, and turn score into trench just made; then shovel. These two furrows can be 5 or 6 inches deep, and about 15 inches wide. All the width that is required is to give the horse freedom to walk. Beyond that, is extra clay to throw out. The ditch is now about 12 inches deep. Two more furrows can be plowed, using shovel after each; this course can be narrowed to a foot or 13 inches wide. Ditch is now about 16 or 18 inches deep. Horse can still freely work to turn another furrow in bottom, which leaves the ditch practically ready for the tile scoop.

Point 1.—A good team can turn these stiff, clay furrows readily.

2. A man can shovel four or five times more clay than he can dig.

3.—A narrow plow is more desirable than a wide one.

4.—In soil free from gravel or stone, at least, this plan is a time and labor saver.

5.—When you have your next ditch to dig, get your horses, plow and shovel into action, and you will find your ditch completed, when you otherwise would only have nicely started.

6.—Subscribe for "The Farmer's Advocate"—the farmers' medium—and give us your views, and help make our calling the easiest, as well as the best and noblest, under the sun.

E. C. B.

Perth Co., Ont.

THE SLIPSHOD FARMER.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We are much pleased with the many splendid articles we read in "The Farmer's Advocate" every week on almost every subject in regard to the farm. There is an old saying that "a man is known by the company he keeps"; another, that "a farmer is known by his buildings and fences and the general neatness or untidiness, as the case may be."

This is the time of year when one would expect to see everything housed: the stock all in comfortable winter quarters, and the farm implements all in the shed for the winter. But, alas! in many cases this is not so. I know farmers who have lived on their farms all their lives, and if you visit their farms you would find the barnyard full of implements of every description. In some cases the plows are frozen in the ground just where they unhitched last fall. In some cases they run the best buggy under some old shed, where it makes an excellent roost for the hens and sparrows. Now, I think this is shipshod farming, and, if you talk with these men they will tell you there is no money in farming. I admit there is no money in that kind of farming. If you see their farms in summer-time you will see a row of thistles, burdocks and all kinds of weeds that have a mind to grow on every fence. Stone piles and old rails ornament the lane back to the woods. No wonder times are hard with them, and more especially for their wives, who have to chop wood with an old dull axe in June to get dinner, while their husbands chase the pigs out of the potatoes, or the cows out of the corn, swearing at the stock for not staying out when there was no fence to keep them out. Many of our townships have passed a by-law to prohibit stock of any kind from running on the highway, so Mr. Slipshod takes advantage and saves the expense of building his road fence. He also