

There are estimated to be nearly 600,000 people in Great Britain and Ireland who are entitled to old age pensions under the new act.

A Connecticut woman has died willing \$50,000 for the care of her horses and dogs and leaving \$2,000 to her husband.

Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri have all been suffering from blizzards accompanied by severe cold. The states farther north were also visited by the storm.

For the present, in the interests of peace California has dropped all anti-Japanese legislation.

In an action brought by the U. S. government against the sugar trust, it was brought out that false scales were used to weigh out the imported products in order to defraud the customs. A difference of 75% could, by these scales, be made in favor of the company.

A bomb was thrown near Calcutta at a train on which Lord Minto, the Viceroy of India was due to be travelling. Fortunately he had taken another train, and no one was injured by the explosion.

A letter was read in all the Roman Catholic churches in Ireland on a recent Sunday advising the Irish people not to be lured into emigrating to America by false letters and statements, and warning them of perils to be avoided if they did cross the ocean.

### Experiments in the Peace River in 1908

Reports have been received up to December 19th 1908, from Mr. Robert Jones, the farmer in charge of the experimental work in agriculture and horticulture being carried on by the Director of Experimental Farms at Fort Vermilion on the Peace River in Northern Alberta—Fort Vermilion is about 350 miles in a direct line north of Edmonton, or about 700 miles north by the mail route.

Mr. Jones reports on the results of the experiments conducted, also on the condition of the crops in the Fort Vermilion district; he says: "The past season was, on the whole, very favorable for crops of all sorts in this locality. The spring opened up about the middle of April, and seeding was under full headway by the 1st of May. Wheat was fully ripe by the 17th of August, and harvest was general by the 20th of that month. None of the wheat is frosted.

Owing to delay in the mails, the seed of early ripening wheats and other grains sent to Mr. Jones from the Experimental Farm for sowing did not reach Fort Vermilion until June, hence they were held over to be sown in the spring of 1909. Mr. Jones has given much of his time this season to the examination of crops grown by farmers in the district and has obtained samples from them which he forwarded to the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and which have recently come to hand. He says that he thinks he is quite safe in estimating the wheat crop of the Fort Vermilion district for this year at 35,000 bushels with an average of about 24 bushels to the acre, barley at 5,000 bushels with an average of about 60 bushels to the acre, and oats about 4,000 bushels. This makes a total of about 44,000 bushels of grain for that district.

The experimental plots of turnips have given a crop of over 16 tons to the acre, mangels 15 tons, and white carrots 12½ tons to the acre.

The hardy cross-bred apple trees produced at Ottawa, also some hardy Russian sorts, which were sent to Fort Vermilion in the spring of 1907, survived the winter of 1907-8, and have made good growth during the past season, some of them as much as two feet. The plums have made a still stronger growth, and writing on the 15th of October, Mr. Jones says: "Although most of our native trees have been stripped of their foliage by frost, the leaves on the apples and plums are quite green yet."

About 25 varieties of black, red, and white currants were also forwarded for test, also three varieties of raspberries and two of strawberries; all of these are doing well and making good growth. Many varieties of trees and shrubs of the hardiest sorts suitable for shelter and ornament were also supplied. Those which survived the hardships connected with transportation and the cold of the winter of 1907, more than 50 varieties in all, are doing well.

Writing on August 29th, Mr. Jones says: "My garden vegetables are promising large yields. Some of my carrots measure now 3 inches in diameter and I have cauliflower at present which weigh 10 pounds each, also tomatoes of good size which are almost ripe now. The yield of potatoes will be large; the earliest ones were ready for the table on July 13th."

The samples of wheat received from Fort Vermilion are very fine, well matured and very heavy. There were five samples in all, and their dates of sowing and harvesting were as follows:

	Date of sowing	When ripe	When cut	Weight per bush. lbs.
Preston	May 6	Aug. 19	Aug. 22	64½
Ladago	April 31	.....	Sep. 5	64
Ladago	May 4	Aug. 17	Aug. 21	61
Early Riga	April 21	.....	Aug. 21	63
Riga	May 9	.....	Aug. 29	64½

No samples of Red Fife could be obtained; all the varieties named are earlier than Red Fife and hence suit this district better. They have all been grown from samples sent to settlers during the past few years from the Experimental Farms.

Two samples of oats were received, one of Banner which weighed 41½ pounds per bushel and one unnamed which weighed 42 pounds per bushel. The Banner was sown May 16th and was ripe August 24th. One sample of barley was received unnamed which was sown May 16th and was cut August 12th. This weighed 49½ pounds per bushel. There was one sample of peas which was sown May 23rd and cut August 12th, weighing 64 pounds per bushel. There were also two small samples of beans which were plump and well ripened. From the dates of sowing and ripening, the absence of injury from frost and the weights of the samples of the grain sent, it is evident that the past season was quite as favorable for crop growing at Fort Vermilion as it was in many parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan further south. On December 19th, Mr. Jones writes: "The farmers in this neighborhood are busy at present hauling their wheat to market all of which is of the very best quality."

WM. SAUNDERS.

Director of Dominion Experimental Farms.

### The Bachelor and His Problem

"THE SHACK BEAUTIFUL."

The true value of a well decorated house is not apparent to many; but after consideration it will be admitted that for many reasons the home that is the most artistically arranged and ornamented is the most cheerful to reside in, even if the owner does not believe himself capable of fostering a love for the beautiful. One can readily realize the detrimental effect which would be produced on patients compelled to lie in hospitals the walls of which were devoid of paint or any attempt at decorative treatment. The irritation produced on the nervous system of such people would render their recovery very little assistance indeed. The same might be said of persistently monotonous patterns of wall-paper or the glaringly vulgar designs obtained in the cheaper grades of such goods. The fact is beyond dispute that mural decoration has a very pronounced and powerful effect on the human mind both in health or sickness. This being so, the necessity of the "shack beautiful" will appeal to every reader of this article.

The question naturally arises at this point as to how a man may so decorate his bachelor shack as to give it the desired artistic and restful appearance.

Consideration should first of all be given to the wall-paper. The highest point in art is reached when simplicity is portrayed as the essence of beauty. This is applicable to such ordinary subjects as walls. No ornate and heavily labored design should be displayed on the walls of the bachelor's shacks in Northwest Canada, if these men wish to appear cultured and tasteful.

A suggested scheme in plain wall design may prove of value to any who contemplate the re-decoration of their humble prairie residences. Green paper should first be obtained absolutely void of figures or ornamentation. No fear need be entertained about such material containing arsenic, as present day manufacturers prefer to use coal-tar, a cheaper and less dangerous medium.

The first step is to wainscott the wall to the height of about 3 feet, a suitable moulding is next run along the top of this. The paper is then applied between wainscot and ceiling. A neatly carpentered and smoothly planed shelf is affixed at a distance of 6 feet from the ground, all around the room, a border is then not essential. Unpainted ribbed moulding is nailed in perpendicular strips from shelf to wainscot, so as to enclose a square of the green wall paper. White enamel applied to the woodwork will give perhaps the first real thrill of enthusiasm and sincere

admiration in the soul of the "Lord of the Shack," which feeling will only be exceeded by the hangings of a suitably selected and tastefully framed picture in each square of green. The walls are now complete and worthy of the real pride experienced by the owner. The expense of this scheme is practically no greater than that entailed by the usual fifteenth rate style adopted so universally in the average Western Canadian homestead.

Another idea is to paper with any plain art tint, using a border for the relief it gives from the monotonous. A home-made stencil can easily be manufactured by anyone possessing average intelligence. A border thus produced will possess merit as amateur handiwork. In borders a bird design always lends itself to artistic treatment. Wild duck, for example, in which the colors of the beak, neck and body are varied.

It is not widely known that the oilcloth used for covering tables, counters, etc., is useful as a wall covering. A wainscott is used here also, then the remaining wall space is neatly decorated with this material of the exact width to complete the length of the wall to the ceiling. Pure white or marbled effects can be procured. That which bears a geometric design is far too distracting and confusing to be of the slightest value for this purpose.

The ceiling can be of a light tint if the impression of increased area is desired. The darker shades, of course, give the opposite effect. A man's own judgment is the best guide in matter of this nature.

The floor always needs to be taken into account in the beautifying of the home, although at first it appears quite a small matter. Linoleum, if kept clean, gives a pleasing appearance, but seems to look somewhat cold. Carpets are generally banned for financial reasons and really it is no great drawback to live without a carpet as they are so unhygienic. Bare boards look dismal. What then can be done? A neatly laid floor oiled again and again until it actually glistens is probably the solution of the problem.

It is easily kept clean, is in keeping and harmony with most decorative schemes and with rugs and skins scattered around gives that inviting appearance that compels one to feel absolutely comfortable and contented.

It seems that in the selection of pictures the average bachelor homesteader reverts almost to barbarism. Vulgar calendars, and crude picture postcards generally grace, or rather disgrace, his walls. Reproductions in color of masterpieces in art are within the reach of all. They are an inspiration and tend to uplift the ideals. Why then, will men persist in looking daily on that which warps the love of real beauty and degrades the nobler feelings of manhood?

In furnishing a home, goods should be bought, not alone for the comfort they will give, but also for the general influence they will exert on the dwellers in the house where they are placed. Depressing colors should be shunned. That which is restful to the eye and causes gratification the longer one contemplates it, is what is required. It is also highly essential that harmony should exist between everything in the room. 'Tis true that contrast is often artistic, but a beautiful contrast is so difficult for the tyro house-decorator to obtain that he manifests wisdom when he leaves such effects severely alone.

It has been endeavored to show that a practical application of art at a small cost is possible in the arranging of the homes of the lonely men who reside amidst the wearying "sameness" of the prairies, and we hope that the hints herein given may prove an incentive to these same men to arise and put their house in order.

Alta.

LOUIS C. BELROSE.



SOMETHING BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE RUN OF SOD SHACKS. A COMFORTABLE WINTER HABITATION

### The Financial Problem

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Mr. Belrose, in the article for Jan. 6th, is rather homesteading to a homestead where he speaks of home dollars being secured. Perhaps he is referring to who merely sits on the plows with the regulation and offers the one-fourth the kind of settler required. There are so many of them it makes it more difficult farming his land. If the first, we should have the and it would not be necessary for him to poison gophers around his own. But then the regulations, it means eight hundred dollars for haulage of fuel, stopping-

Of all the difficulties we have to contend, the greatest the present time the major 40 miles from the railroad and 100 miles from the railway living at this distance for years, especially in the winter. A man with a good trade of a homestead in three years, hardship of homesteading homestead, some of us would and figures as to his outlook for it.

I only filed last July, you four hundred and eighty dollars nothing but absolute necessity of at least \$343.00 for before I commence to harvest.

The following is a list of expenses: Team of oxen, harness and Homestead fee. . . . . Plow (second-hand). . . . . Stove. . . . . House (10 by 14, shingle roof, ness of shiplap). . . . . Small tools and cooking utensils. Store bill, stopping-house

Total. . . . . After laying out this sum fall and earned \$80.00 which I port myself on the place have been able to do on tons of hay, build the house, coal, firewood, and a few

The problem now before the coming summer, and homestead will be at a stationary course, it means figure) for an extra team breaking all I can during the summer. Then I shall be hired. I spend \$20.00 for barn. During summer, store bill \$60.00, blacksmith sharp hire of mower and rake \$ have to be disced in the about \$20.00, plus Local \$8.00, making the total \$

If I winter my four oxen and work out during the winter, likely that I should arrive with more than would pay and pay my store bill for 1910 will be: store bill, acres, \$112.00; hire of oxen, \$2.00; gopher poison, \$1. here, and it would necessitate three strand wire fence, mower and rake, \$10.00; tax, \$8.00; total 1910, \$3 have laid out \$1123.00 before the crop in 1910.

Oh! you exclaim, but to fall back on! Well, sir, lay there would be the construction of granary. problem. Suppose the postponed, as has been the case, position shall I find myself to haul to town 60 miles a days (a week's work for pens of stopping-house. from town one cannot or it would mean selling to think fit. You will, there be much profit in hauling 64 to 68 cents per bush fall. There are many families in with their families and \$2000.00 in house building, etc., and at the end know not which way selves.

A neighbor of mine has and has spent from \$1000 and all he has to show is \$1600. It will take several out of debt for his machinery.