

About the Farm

Regarding Metallic Roofing

An Instructive Article Setting Forth Many Facts of Interest Regarding This Form of Roofing. By G. Gordon Complin.

The advantages to be obtained from the use of sheet metal roofings are so many and so varied, as well as so clear and indisputable, that when one stops to think them over, the really surprising feature is that they are not in far more general use. Believing that a wider knowledge of the facts would help the situation, the following statements are presented:

Let it first be clearly understood that in sheet metal roofings, as in all other products, there are good and bad. The remarks which follow, therefore, are intended to apply only to reputable materials properly made and laid—materials which any good tinsmith will lay on a roof at a price well within reach of practically every builder.

Sheet metal is fireproof. Here lies perhaps its greatest virtue, and one that can hardly be over-valued. It is also lightning-proof. When a metal roof is properly "grounded," lightning may strike it with no more effect than if it struck out in a lake.

Sheet metal is comparatively light in weight, imposing no strain on the structure and permitting the safe employment of light and inexpensive supports.

It is practically immune from affection by extremes of heat and cold. It will not snap with frost and ice, nor will it curl up, warp and twist under the summer sun. It does not retain, on into the night, the heat infused into it by day, but will cool off quickly, making sleeping quarters much more comfortable. This latter feature applies more particularly, perhaps, to Terne plates than to any of the other metals.

Sheet metal roofing presents a smooth surface, free from cracks and crevices. It thus affords no grip for snow, but permits same to slide off freely without freezing and the consequent "back-watering" and leaking. Its smooth hard surface also permits of its being walked on without damage. It also admits of a secure and watertight junction at valleys and hips.

The joints of a sheet metal roof are invariably close and snug fitting. For this reason, it is rarely disturbed by violent winds and cyclones—the wind can get no purchase on it.

The big item of cost in a sheet metal roof is material. The small item is labor. The purchaser thus has the satisfaction of knowing that the bulk of his money is actually entering into the life and service of his roof—it is not being paid merely for laying it. This rapidity and ease of laying is also of advantage in another way, in that it admits of the buyer laying the roof himself, or with unskilled help only, if it is not convenient to hire it done. This last clause applies in particular to the more simple, but none the less excellent, forms of galvanized shingles, tiles, etc.

Sheet metal roofing is durable. (Bear in mind that we are speaking of reliable materials only.) Plenty of metal roofs are in evidence to-day which were laid 30, 50 and 60 years ago, and which, by all appearances, are still good for many years' service. How many times they have saved their respective buildings from destruction by fire or lightning can only be a matter of conjecture.

Much harm has undoubtedly been done to the good name of metal roofing by the use in some localities of cheap material, which has proven short-lived. This should in nowise be held against the products of which this article treats, as if good material is used, there is ample evidence to prove that it will give generations of satisfactory service.

Few roofings can be repaired as neatly and easily as sheet metal, should necessity arise. A patched roof is usually an eyesore, but with most forms

of sheet metal, a repair or alteration can be made practically invisible.

For rural districts, sheet metal has an added advantage, in that it sheds clean rain water—and more of it. None can soak in, so it all flows off. It further has the property of condensing and shedding the dew, a fair area of roof often shedding a quarter or half barrel in a single night in an otherwise dry season.

In point of appearance, sheet metal roofing can satisfy the most exacting tastes. It is made in a range of styles and patterns suitable for every conceivable sort of building.

The plain severe lines of the standing seam and similar styles look neat and serviceable for industrial buildings, while the numerous patterns of embossed shingles and tiles afford the home-owner a chance to select something to accord with any style of architecture.

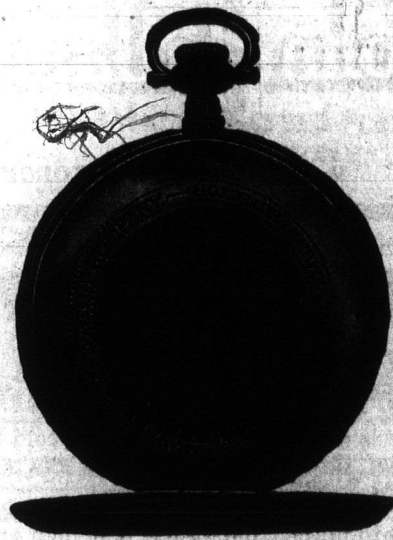
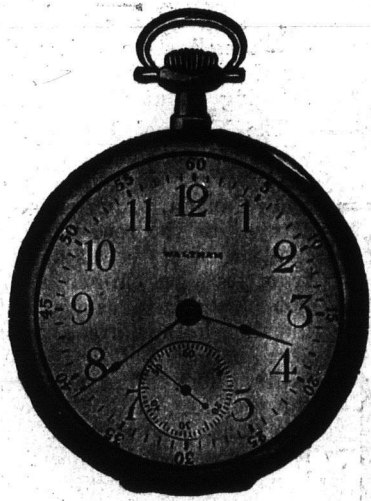
Sheet metal can be painted very quickly and very cheaply. The paint does not need to be brushed in, and, as there is no absorption, a little goes a long way.

From the standpoint of economy, sheet metal roofing should appeal strongly to the thoughtful buyer. Its first cost is very moderate, and figured by "year-cost," it is decidedly economical. True economy consists not in

buying the cheapest product, but in buying that is best value in the end.

Further direct economy is effected by reason of the reduced insurance rate allowed on buildings roofed with fire-proof roofing.

Taking economy in its broader sense—national economy—sheet metal still holds its place in the fore. Our country's supply of minerals is practically unlimited. Our supply of timber, on the other hand, is dangerously limited. Can we, therefore, not put what timber we have to much better use than sawing it to kindling wood size and arranging it, in convenient form for burning, on top of our homes? This is practically what wood-shingle roofing amounts to.



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