

Realizing, then, the importance of the improvement of the farm surroundings, it is necessary to consider the many ways in which that improvement can be effected.

Location and Development of the Farmstead

Location.—The location of the farmstead or farm home is a matter worthy of careful consideration. Unfortunately, careful thought is too frequently neglected, and, as a result, many farmers find, when too late, that buildings are poorly located, from which much inconvenience results.

In the development of more attractive farm surroundings, the best results are obtained if the work is done according to some well defined plan. Such a plan need not be carried on along elaborate lines. In fact, naturalness and simplicity should be the keynote of any work that is done in the improvement of surroundings of Western homes. In a country like Western Canada, which is characterized by wide expanses and the natural landscape surroundings, the work of improvement should, if possible, be so developed as to be in keeping with those surroundings.

In the development of a farmstead plan, consideration should be given to such matters as site, water supply, windbreak protection, location of drives and walks, size and arrangement of farm garden, and ornamental planting.

In the selection of a site probably the most important consideration is that of convenience. The farmstead should be so located that other parts of the farm can conveniently be reached from it. It should, if possible, be located so that it is convenient to the church, school, post office and other outside places that are frequently visited. The farmstead should also be located as conveniently as possible to the main road that leads to an adjoining town or city.

Drainage.—The question of drainage for the farmstead and farm buildings, relating as it does to the health of the household, is a matter worthy of careful consideration. Farm buildings should not be located near a spot where stagnant water is likely to collect, unless spots of this kind can be remedied by natural or artificial drainage. Moderately light sandy soil, with a fairly open subsoil, is the most desirable for a farmstead site. Heavy clay soils, particularly if underlaid with a hard subsoil, are difficult to drain, and may in time develop unfavorable conditions around a farm home.

Water Supply.—Related to the question of drainage is the question of the farm water supply. Good water is invaluable to any farm household, and, on many Western farms, is difficult to get. Impure water is not only a menace to the health of the household, but is a source of great discomfort and inconvenience. Farm water