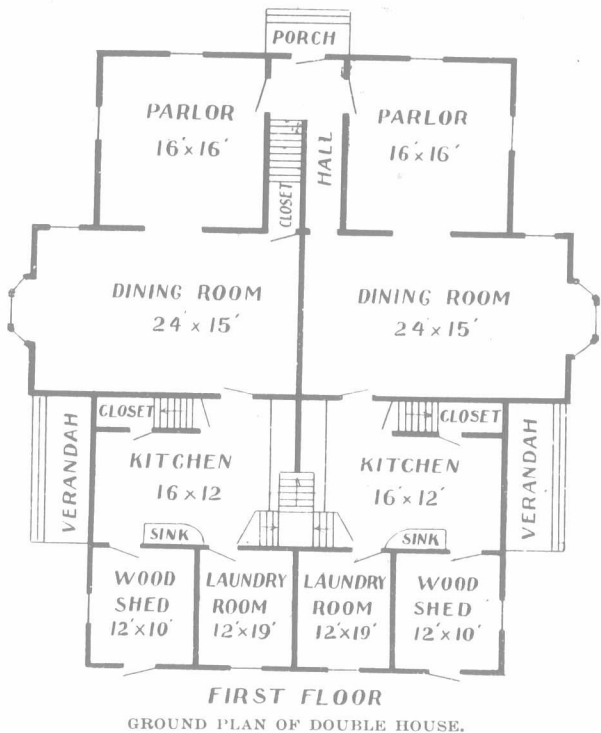


Plan of House for Two Families.

I have lived, in a harmonious and satisfactory manner, for the last five years in a double house. To be sure, there are some disadvantages, and a great many advantages, especially in cost of building and maintaining. One furnace will heat it, and, as in our case, both families use same halls, stair, and bathroom. If one family is absent, the other keeps up the fires, so the much-prized plants, which so often keep one at home these cold days, are safe. In our case it is son and wife and two children living



FIRST FLOOR
GROUND PLAN OF DOUBLE HOUSE.

with his father and mother. I think this about the only case that calls for double houses. Father and mother never want their last boy to leave them. We all know, large houses, elegantly furnished, never bring happiness to the occupants. I can see no use whatever in rooms richly furnished and kept shut up, for fear a speck of dirt should find its way into them, to be opened for some special company, which the boys rarely ever see into and which seem to say to them, "Don't step on my carpet, don't sit in this chair." They take a look at the new picture mother has just bought, and go back to the kitchen to sit in an old wooden chair, tilted back against the wall, with nothing interesting to read and no games with which to amuse themselves. There is no pleasant sight, to my mind, than to see father, seated by the table in the very best room, reading his ADVOCATE or the latest book on farming; little Viola, with her doll family in one corner; Fred, with his school books, opposite his father. As I take up my mending basket and join the party, I feel sure my boys will never leave this home to find a happier spot.

The plan is large enough for an average family. The chamber above the dining-room is large and makes a nice family room. If you think, as some do, there must be a bedroom downstairs, the laundry room could be in the cellar and the present one used as a sleeping room. There is no pantry, but two large cupboards built across ends of kitchens. They, with the closet, will be found as convenient as a pantry, and do not take near the room. There is a back stairway, which opens into both kitchens. The walls and ceilings of kitchens and laundries, also the cupboards, are finished with matched chestnut lumber. On the floor is a good piece of linoleum. The remainder of the house is lathed and plastered. All the woodwork (natural wood) is oiled and polished; the floors the same. What a saving of work these floors are. Instead of a dirty carpet to sweep, just a few mats to brush. These are the ideal floors for sleeping apartments, and I think more appropriate for the whole house. Then, what a change in the house-cleaning time! The men scarcely know when it does occur. Wherever I have given you the benefit of it in the plan I am sending, and hope this will meet the requirements of Inquirer.

A READER OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Making Maple Syrup and Sugar.

The season for making maple syrup and sugar is now about to begin, and, having had some experience in that line, I will, with your permission, give the readers of the ADVOCATE a few pointers which are the result of my observation.

Much injury is often inflicted on trees by excessive tappings and various ill-practices in connection with the operation. As a guard against such practices, the following rules will be found useful:

1. Use nothing larger than a three-quarter-inch auger or bit—one-half to five-eighths is best.
2. Do not tap all your trees until you try a few first and find that the sap will run equally well on all sides.
3. Select the thickest part of the tree that is farthest away from an old orifice or tapping cut.
4. Never put more than one spout to a tree that is less than one foot in diameter.
5. Do not, as a rule, tap trees more than once in a season; but they may be freshened once after a long hard freeze

during sugar season. 6. Never leave spouts in trees a single day after they are dried up.

Buckets and tubs.—No person can make the best sugar by using foul-smelling buckets and tubs, and we think that tin tubs and buckets are much better than wooden ones, for the tin ones are much easier kept clean and sweet. The sap penetrates the wood of the wooden tubs and buckets, and sours and dries during the latter part of the season, and it will not be an easy task to get the scent out again.

Some farmers use wooden tubs painted inside and out, and think them preferable to tin, as they do not warm the sap as much on a sunny day as tin does, and will therefore keep the sap sweet longer; but, the fact is, one should not allow sap to stand in a tub longer than he can help, and as the sap can be gathered from a tin tub whenever it is warm enough to run, it gives the tin tubs an advantage in this respect.

Sap should be gathered and boiled as soon as possible after it has left the tree. This is one of the main points on which good or poor sugar depends, for the longer sap stands after it has left the trees, the more color there will be in the sugar. Sap should be strained before it is boiled, to remove all foreign substances, and in boiling it one should make it a point to syrup-off quite often, as the continued boiling of the same syrup for some time will color it, and the boiling apparatus should be constructed with special reference to this idea. Sap commences to change as soon as it leaves the tree, and should therefore be worked up as soon as possible. And your motto should be in making maple sugar: 1st—cleanliness, and 2nd—to get all foreign substances out of it and to put none in, either in boiling the sap or sugaring-off.

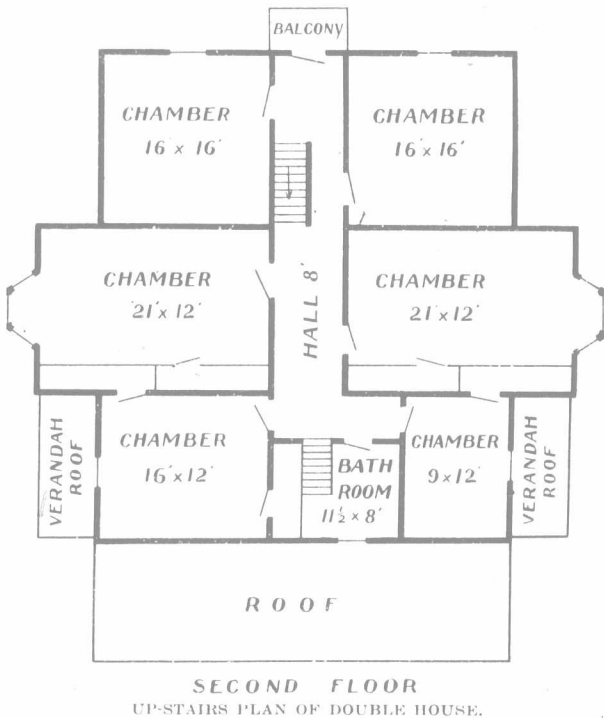
Elgin Co., Ont.

CLAUDE W. BLAKE.

The Pea Weevil Pest.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have been following the agitation in the ADVOCATE for fair reform and abolition of the



SECOND FLOOR
UP-STAIRS PLAN OF DOUBLE HOUSE.

tuberculin test, and have noted, as a result, the widespread interest thereby created. There is, in our agriculture, another field which has yet to be dealt with effectively, and it seems to demand some such movement as those to which you are now giving space and attention. I refer to the checking or extermination of the pea weevil (*Bruchus pisi*).

Farmers in the southern sections of Ontario have been forced to drop peas from their list of profitable market crops, because of this pest. We learn that in those sections of the Province lying north of a line from Goderich to Smith's Falls (roughly, that portion where the course of running water is northward) they do not experience any such difficulty. But the remaining counties, notably Ontario, Durham and Prince Edward, are practically out of what was once a remunerative crop. According to the 1899 report of the Bureau of Industries (page 29), the pea crop of Ontario was valued at \$8,675,673. No figures are given as to the deterioration in value as a result of the weevil, but the farmers can answer that.

There is no dearth of remedies, but there has yet to be any effective treatment. Two things are not considered by the entomologists in laying down their rules, and in consequence efforts at coping with the weevil are largely wasted. In the first place, insect life is torpid in winter, and the pests may not succumb so readily as is supposed (see Report, Dept. Biology, O. A. C., 1899, page 33), and in the second place, the treatment must be general and thorough. Just how much this last point means is not certain. The life-history of the insect theoretically requires the growing pea as a host-plant, but I have heard it stated by a gray-haired pea merchant at a Farmers' Institute, in Oshawa, that such was not the case; that, in fact, the pest would by some means carry over at least one

season around his warehouse in sufficient numbers to further propagate under favorable conditions. He was positive in his statement, and science has yet to give a contradiction backed by experiments.

This point, however, supported by the fact that only by general treatment could results be hoped for, led us to discuss at the last meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union, in Guelph, the advisability of asking for a law requiring all peas to be harvested, threshed and ground or treated with carbon bisulphide, hydrocyanic acid gas, or some other approved method before September 1st of each and every year. Amongst other considerations was the argument that the agitation was not sufficiently strong to warrant the enactment of legislation, and the matter accordingly stood over. It is patent that nature cannot rid us of this pest, nor can one man assist himself if his neighbor does not co-operate. Shall progressive men be hampered?

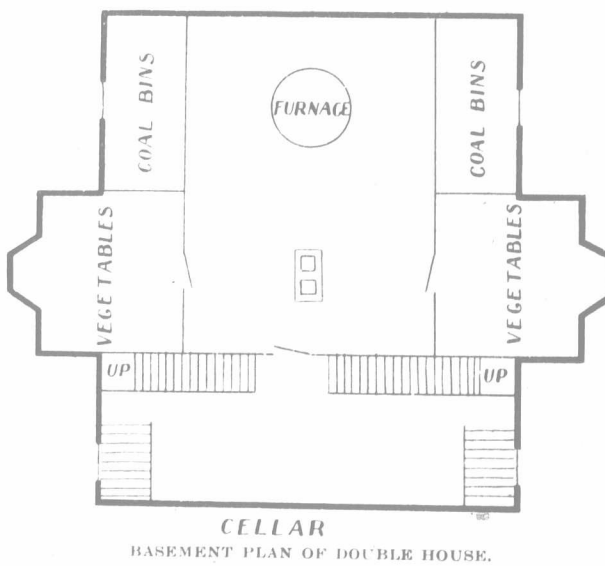
Hastings Co., Ont.

H. R. ROSS.

The Secret of Success.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

We have entered on a new century, with the South African war still dragging on, but now speedily nearing a close. There is, however, another war upon us of a different nature, but one that cannot help affecting each one of us as Canadians, viz., the commercial or industrial war, which, as Lord Roseberry puts it, Great Britain has more need to fear than one that could be decided by force of arms. It seems to me that we Canadian farmers have been engaged in this latter war for some time, and will continue to be for a long time to come. Our produce has been competing in the markets of the world with produce from all parts of the world, each land producing it under different conditions. The country that finds the readiest sale for its produce, at the most remunerative prices, is the one, in my way of thinking, that is winning in this battle for supremacy. When we look at the great increase in exports of the last few years, is it not proof positive that we are more than holding our own in fighting for the trade of the motherland? Butter, cheese, pork and poultry have made the greatest increases, and it is necessary that we should not only hold this trade, but keep on increasing it. The poultry industry is only in its infancy in Canada, the farmers having only realized within the last few years what profits are to be derived from it, chiefly through the agricultural press and colleges throughout the land. The agriculturist, to be successful, has a great deal of thinking to do, and, as a rule, he must do his own thinking, as no hard and fast rule can be made that will apply to all farmers, each working under different conditions, unless it is in a general way. This way, I would say, is education in our particular line of business. Lord Roseberry, in his last famous speech, warns the British people of the approaching danger, and advises them to educate themselves, in order to keep in the van in this march of progress that the world is making. Might we, as Canadian farmers, not take the same advice? Where would we have been to-day had it not been for the agricultural papers and colleges? What a grand thing those two sources have been to us. The former has been giving the very best ideas that could be got together from practical farmers and agriculturists all over the land, in such a manner that any farmer, for a very small cost, can keep abreast of the times; the latter is doing an equally good work, showing us how to get a maximum amount of produce at a minimum cost. It has also been educating young men who have been fortunate enough to be able to go out and demonstrate, by practical farming, to their



CELLAR
BASEMENT PLAN OF DOUBLE HOUSE.

brother farmers, who, through circumstances, perhaps, had not the opportunity that those young men had. Is it not natural that we should look to those young men for information and new ideas? It is the educated man, more than ever, that wins in these modern times. In no branch of business does education count for more than in farming. When we look around among our most progressive neighbors, do we not almost invariably find that they are men who have had a fair education and who are always ready to learn, from whatever source it may come. Experience teaches, but his fee is too high for the farmer. In no way do we learn more at so