

The Modern Farm Home*

In years gone by the farmer was well pleased to have a home or house of any kind. In the days when our forefathers hewed their homes out of the wilderness, the matter of a house was a second consideration. Their days were days of hard labor and little comfort, and it would seem that the tradition of our forefathers has descended on their children, for some of the farm homes of the well-to-do farmers of the present day are no better than they were a half century ago.

It has been said of the farmer, and no doubt with some truth, that he will build handsome, up-to-date buildings for his stock and let his family shift for themselves. If the farmer would stop and consider this question for a moment, he might see this question in a different light.

I ask the question, "Why should not the farmer be comfortable?" The majority of them have the means to be so. It is a neglect of the opportunities which the majority of farmers have. The farmer works hard, and as he is through this world but once, I would say, let him enjoy some of the comforts of life.

*One of a series of essays written by Mr. Fred T. Howell, of Brant Co., Ont., a competitor in the Dairy Farms competition.

The farmer's wife is entitled to as many labor saving devices in and around the house as the farmer has upon his farm, but how seldom you see it? The farmer's wife is also entitled to the town or city. How many farm houses of today have a bathroom? Not many. Why? He will tell you he cannot afford it, but that same farmer will put down \$400 for a team of horses he does not need, and \$80 for brass mounted harness, and think he has made a good bargain.

Now, a bathroom is not a luxury. It has become a necessary part of the modern farm home. A good serviceable bathroom can now be placed in any farm home for \$150 to \$200. For any in the city. Any plumber will give you plans to build a septic tank, and the expense is no more than an ordinary cistern. I will venture to say that after he has a bathroom in his house for one year the farmer would not take five times the amount of first cost and do without it.

Another convenience of the modern farm home is a refrigerator, and its place is near the dining room table. The cost is not very great. A good spruce lined refrigerator can be purchased for \$25. It is not right, just to ask the farmer's wife with all

the work she has to do, to go up and down cellar steps six or eight times a day with her arms full of dishes where if the refrigerator stood near the table, with very little labor she could place all butter and cream, meat and fruit, on its shelves and close the doors, knowing that the contents will be fresh and sweet for the next meal.

Another convenience of the modern home is lighting it by gas. It costs about \$85 to install an average acetylene plant. This includes piping, chandeliers, wall brackets and ball lamp, in all about thirty-five lights. When once installed, it does away with cleaning and filling of lamps, which is perhaps one of the worst household drudgeries. As regards cost, I have 35 lights and the least it has cost me per year was \$12, and the most, \$16. You have no lamp chimneys to buy nor any coal oil to draw from town every time you go. Best of all, our light is clear, pure, bright and pleasant, and it needs attention but once a week in winter, and once in two weeks in summer.

It is not necessary to spend a large amount of money to make a farm home convenient. It is the little things that count. A dumb waiter in the pantry does not cost much. A New York safety can be purchased for \$15 and placed in position by any good carpenter at a cost of about \$2.

This will save many steps in a day's work. Everything that is needed for the day can be placed in it in the morning, and this saves going up and down stairs, which is the hardest part of the day's work.



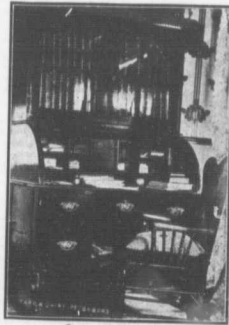
Comfort in the Dining Room

The comfortable dining room in the country home of Mr. Fred T. Howell, Brant Co. Note the appropriate wall and ceiling decoration. The house is lighted with acetylene gas, and is fully equipped with good plain, but substantial fixtures.

Another help in housework is doing away with carpets. Put down good rugs in the centre of the floors and paint a border around them. This does away with much of the heavy work of housecleaning time. A clothes chute from the upstairs to the washroom saves the carrying of a heavy clothes basket downstairs and any person who is handy with carpenter tools can build it.

We try to save ourselves all the steps we can in the barn. It is then so more than right that the woman of the house should have the same privilege. Every farm house should have plenty of water. Water by the cook stove, in the pantry, upstairs, and abundance of it in the cellar. A cellar with good drainage, cement floors and plenty of water is one that is easily kept clean.

It has been said that a man's char-



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In the home of Mr. F. T. Howell, Brant Co., Ont. Mr. Howell is an up-to-date farmer in his county, and was a winner in the Dairy Farms' Competition last year, conducted by Farm and Dairy.

acter is judged by his surroundings. The farmer should invest a little more of his money on his lawns and fences and in keeping the yards clean and everything in repair, furnish his house with easy chairs and an abundance of good books, making it bright and cheerful with music. Open all the blinds and let no room in

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