

How Minnesota Experiment Station Distributes Seed Grain.

BULLETIN 62.—WHEAT-BREEDING AND CULTIVATION.

Several men in each county, preferably graduates of the School of Agriculture, are encouraged to become growers of certified seeds of field crops. Men are chosen who have good land, and who rotate their crops in a manner to give the best possible conditions for seed-growing. Those who keep live stock that they may grow a goodly proportion of crops which enrich the farm and clean the land of weeds, who are businesslike in their dealings, and who have the confidence of their neighbors, are desirable seed-growers.

Arrangements are made with these farmers to grow seeds of varieties which the State Experiment Station has tested until it is assured that they will succeed in the counties to which they are sent. It seems wise to send out comparatively few varieties, and to do all the preliminary testing at University Farm and at the sub-station farms. The seed is to be sold in some quantity, usually in bushel or bag lots, that each seed-grower or farmer may grow them in fields, rather than in small patches, and the station desires that modest but remunerative prices be asked and given for these certified seeds.

It is believed that under this plan each new variety will be more rapidly multiplied, if it proves valuable, than if the station were to break the first lot of seeds up into small packages and send them out free of cost. PAYING A REASONABLE PRICE FOR A NEW VARIETY OF GRAIN, thus well vouched for, WOULD CAUSE THE NEW OWNER TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN IT. A small profit, say twenty-five cents per bushel on seed wheat, would repay the seed-grower for his extra work in growing, caring for and cleaning seeds for sale to the other farmers in the county. The farmers securing these new varieties from our seed-growers could make a small margin of profit by selling these certified seeds to still other neighbors.

Common Sense and Industry Essential to Success.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have been much interested in reading the articles in your very useful journal re the education of the farmer's son. As thoughtful people will admit, there are two or possibly more ways of inspiring the farmer to make financial headway in life. I use the word "financial" in a restricted sense, as money is not the only object in life, although the world over it appears the popular object of men's efforts.

Assuming that a fair education is necessary for success in our operations, if a high school or agricultural college finish can be added without destroying the spirit of hard-headed, practical, determined industry, essential for farm life, then so much the better for the man who says, "I will succeed in farming, the most noble of all callings, the most independent of all occupations."

Now you will pardon me if I look stubborn facts in the face, and say to the boys and young men who are not ashamed to own the name farmer and to own a part of "our Creator's heritage, that if they cannot acquire the knowledge of high schools or the accomplishments of a college course, they can acquire a substantial, unapproachable, respectful, healthy independence by devoted application of their energies in working properly a fairly good farm anywhere in the Dominion of Canada. Given a fair common school education, together with industry and an active enquiring mind, a strong taste for reading, and the faculty of observation, any young man can sell such stock-in-trade for a good premium above par. Industry is as good as gold in our country, and enables its possessor, if honest, to break down and overcome the ordinary barriers of life which every progressive man meets and masters.

Practically, men and women whose early opportunities were curtailed by strenuous efforts to make a living, but who nevertheless became self-educated by almost superhuman efforts, are the people seen through all the historic ages near or on the top round of the world's ladder. I would not bar out the help of scientific education in farming, but will say that science is mainly common sense reduced to rule.

I have in mind two notable illustrations: One is a farmer who can talk scientific farming by the hour or week, who has grown up with the general progress of our country, who reads and apparently has read a great way across the field of English literature; but with the acquisition of this knowledge the habit of concentrated practical decisive industry was entirely squeezed out, and that grand receptacle of knowledge has unfortunately fallen far behind in life's progressive race.

The other man is an Englishman, who migrated to Ontario in the fifties, and, as with many more in the early days, the strenuous effort to survive prevented the possibility of even a rudimentary education, so he neither reads nor writes. Yet this man is highly educated in business matters and farming, but his common sense had coupled with it an industrial zeal. Needless to say this man has been a great success. He retired a few years ago, leaving his two sons in freehold possession of as fine farm outlots as our township possesses. I do not adduce the above to disparage the acquisition of knowledge, but to show that a learned lazy man, as a rule, will not succeed, whereas an industrious common-sense man, even without school attainments, as a rule, will succeed.

Before closing I want to say to the young man who has an ideal in farming, that heredity will play an important part in his life's work. Unless he inherits a spirit of industry and progress, it must be acquired; if it is inherited, future acquirements will make the results all the better.

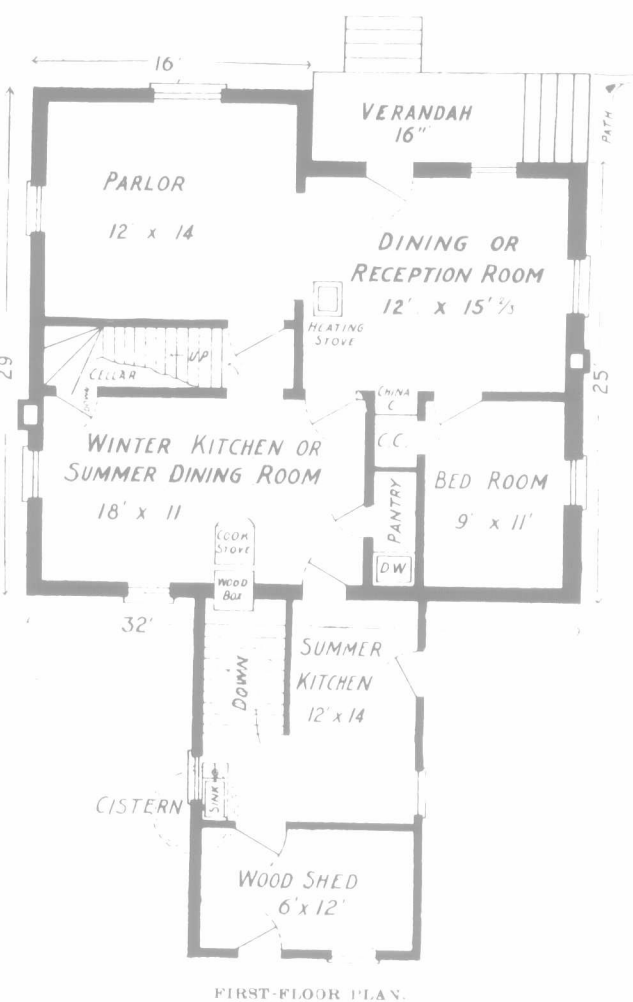
Ontario Co., Ont.

ROBT. C. BRANDON.

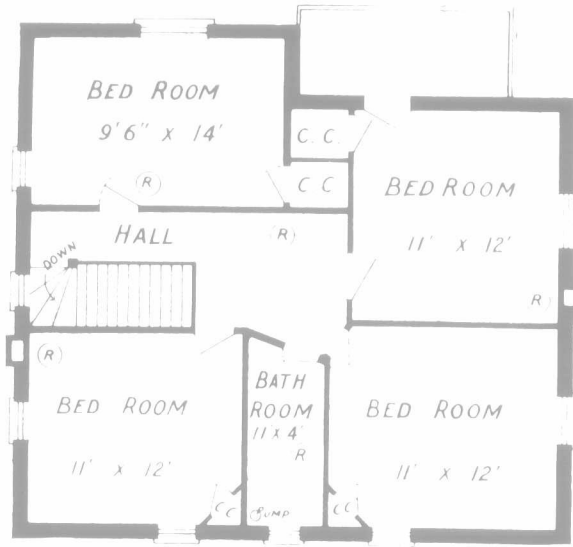
A \$1,300 Farmhouse.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The house herewith described was built last year from the accompanying plan. The architect who drew the plan and describes it is just a common



FIRST-FLOOR PLAN.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

young farmer, nearly twenty years old, whose father is owner of the house.

One year ago, and until last spring, I watched your valuable paper for plans of houses, but did not see any that would suit. We did not want any room wasted in halls, nor rooms too large or too small, and did not want to have too large a house, for a house larger than is needed on a farm is unprofitable. Fancy gables, bay windows and large fancy halls soon count up in a bill, and is of little or no benefit to the owner. And, then,

entering into a hall is out of date; a reception-room is in style, and is less trouble to heat and more serviceable than a large hall. This house has one gable on roof, facing the road, over the parlor, and then at stair landing there is an odd-shaped window, so as not to have three windows the same size on one side of the house that can be seen from the road. With cottage roof, with one gable, dentils on cornice, one plate-glass window in parlor, odd-shaped window at stair landing, and headlight over front door, and other common windows set in wall equal distances from each other, a good and attractive appearance is secured. The cellar wall is a thirteen-inch cement wall six and one-half feet high, with an eight-inch wall for partition, and to support center of house, which is seen on plan. The part where dumb-waiter goes down is used for fruit and dairy, and the other half is used for vegetables. The back stairs is just used for putting things in, which is covered by summer kitchen, which we find better and warmer than entering from outside door. Then the stairs going up in main house is used for domestic housekeeper. The windows are set in wall so as to have draft straight through if needed. There are open holes in chimneys for ventilation.

Now for the next story. The plan almost explains itself. The rooms are not large, but large enough for an ordinary sized family, and large enough to keep clean. In a house where there is a very large kitchen the reception-room and parlor are not used very much. When we are in the reception-room we are more likely to step into the parlor by having archway than if there was a small common door, and that locked half the time. We built this house to use, and not to look once or twice a year into some of the rooms. Then we find the bedroom very convenient when visitors come, to walk them into that warm, handy room to lay their wraps on the bed. Then, if the china closet is not needed that room makes a very nice book-case or library. There is a way to stairs from parlor and from kitchen, so that any visitor coming down stairs in the morning and feeling "tony," can step into the parlor, instead of the kitchen, until breakfast is ready. The both doors will open at once, if needed, to pass from kitchen to parlor. We find the way down cellar very convenient, and the dumb-waiter in one end of pantry saves many steps to cellar. This story is on thirteen-inch brick wall, nine feet in the clear from floor to ceiling.

Of the upstairs plan I need only say that, with registers and pipes from the two stoves leading in opposite directions to chimneys at each side of house, the whole house is heated, and that there are two windows, counting glass in one door, in each bedroom, and that the beds can stand two different ways in each room, and also a clothes-closet for each bedroom.

The cost of this house did not exceed \$1,300. Middlesex Co., Ont. A. E. RICHARDSON.

P. S.—I forgot to say that the upstairs story is eight and one-half feet in the clear from ceiling to floor, leaving the brick wall nineteen feet from cellar to top of wall. A. E. R.

Nova Scotia's College of Agriculture.

Despite the unfavorable weather, snowed-in trains and almost impassable roads, the College of Agriculture at Truro has opened under very favorable auspices. According to the plans of the newly-appointed Principal, Prof. Cumming, the instruction work for the winter was to consist of a series of short courses in agronomy, animal husbandry, horticulture, dairying and poultry. This series of courses commenced on Tuesday, February 7th, with an attendance of about 50 pupils, a number which has been very considerably augmented from time to time since then. In carrying on this course the faculty (Messrs. Cumming, Sears, Fuller and Landry) have been assisted by a number of the best available men in Canada. The following is a brief outline of the subjects studied:

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

From the opening day until Thursday, beef cattle were studied, and the college cattle, consisting of Shorthorns and Herefords, together with Mr. C. A. Archibald's Shorthorns, and some steers from W. W. Black's, afforded a splendid selection for the purpose of illustrating the proper type of this class of stock. On Friday sheep were made the subject of study. Logan Bros., of Amherst Point, and Mr. Robertson, of Nappan, kindly shipped over to Truro a number of sheep for this purpose. Mr. Andrew McPherson, of Rocklin, Pictou Co., also assisted, by giving a most excellent practical address upon the sheep industry. Following this, horses were studied, under the direction of Dr. J. H. Reed, of Guelph. The Clydesdales, Hackneys and Thoroughbreds on the college farm, together with some draft teams and some light horses loaned by the citizens of Truro, filled in these classes. During the latter part of the second week pigs were studied, and the proper type most excellently presented, under the direction of Mr. J. E. Brethour, of Burford, Ont. Work in dairy cattle has also been started, and here again the college is indebted for assistance to Mr. C. A. Archibald, who has kindly allowed the free use of any animals from his excellent Ayrshire herd. These, with the Jerseys