

Conservatories for Amateur Horticulturists

R. W. King, Toronto

THE average conservatory attached to a dwelling is an expensive luxury that only the wealthy can afford, or it is a failure for the purpose for which it was originally designed.

up appearances, the plants and bloom found in such conservatories are usually grown elsewhere.

When an amateur wants a conservatory mainly for purposes in trying his

stands right, than in the back yard. There one can have a conservatory at the cheapest cost and as near as possible what the amateur horticulturist wants; namely, a place not for show purposes but one wherein he can experiment regardless of appearances and as far as possible be on a par with the professional grower, whose main consideration is to obtain efficiency and to avoid burdening his enterprise with useless and unnecessary expense.

The photograph reproduced in the accompanying cut is taken from a view that can be seen any time from the Hamilton train, G. T. R., when approaching Toronto from the west, and is published by kind permission of the owner, Mrs. Miller of Springhurst Avenue, Toronto. The dwelling houses shown are a pair of semi-detached. Originally the porch belonging to the section to the right was the same as may be partly seen to the left of the picture. In building the conservatory the porch was first carried up forming an outlook from which a pleasant view of the lake and garden, in which the lady takes much pride, could be seen.

The building up of the porch to form the outlook enabled the conservatory to be carried up a sufficient height to give ample head room under the sash. The porch also protects the glass from the falling of snow and ice from the roof of the building. It forms also a potting shed or service building for the conservatory, keeping the latter well back and more out of the shade of the dwelling. To avoid overshadowing by the fences



The Home Conservatory of an Amateur Horticulturist in Toronto

This cut and accompanying plans were furnished by the King Construction Company, Toronto.

As as expensive luxury it has been designed by some architect, not a florist, whose main interest is in its architectural appearance. It must be a handsome addition to the dwelling and treated architecturally to correspond. Rounded glass and circular sashes are usually necessary to obtain the desired effect. These add seriously to the cost and if for economy the rounded bars are made of wood they have to be so heavy as to seriously obstruct the light that the plants require, more especially in winter. The side woodwork, consisting of the eaves, mullions and sash frames, are usually made too heavy while the proper position of the conservatory as regards light is often a minor consideration.

An order recently given an expert when criticising the position in which he was asked to design an expensive conservatory, stated in imperative terms: "Put it right there; I am building a house, not a conservatory"; consequently, this conservatory, though proportionately expensive with the house, is only a pretence as far as a suitable place for the growing of flowers or plants is concerned. To make a suitable show, in order to keep

hand at plants or flower growing, there is no better place to put it, if the house

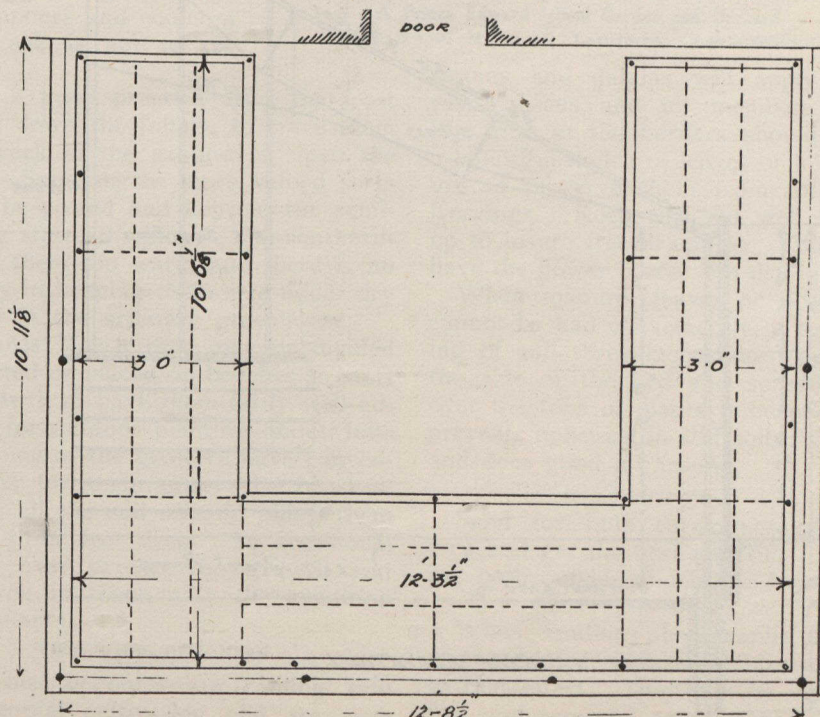


Fig. 2. The Arrangement of the Benches in Conservatory Illustrated on This Page