

Waste

contributes to the... his remarks with... the output of some... plain tariff reformers... by the electorate of... se trouble than the... rring the first half of... protection. When... latter part of that... a Sheffield man, and... with truth, but the... e present period do... reform. I may just... adstone was a tariff... l duties and reduced... s if the more he had... eater his surpluses... er barriers to trade... the more he received... Chamberlain party... otection duties upon... except for revenue... ng to the bottom of... articles of necessity... mportation in order... titious value and the... That is the object... be charitable—fig... l States, Germany... ries... orkers in the United... s; but that counry... n itself, and there is... States, some as large... ot comparable with... ut look at protection... to the workers there... t Britain as regards... nsiderably less and... arnings is less also... cleverest and most... recently said (in a... "Free trade is the... also "that during... rance had increased... rish exports had... rish exports were... nited States and... Under free trade... ploited industry at... uld up the Empire... od supplies and raw... industrial system

sh laborer as getting... ish country laborers... at he would be one... world, as good men... ar round and often... generally has an... age and if he rents... s. per week. I do... so well off although... s for a few shillings... l not have written... tioned the English... he omitted about... ver, will have their... s of beer—or rather... or more, but allow... others, they are no... never tasted spirit... ay, and are steady.

rade and protection... er protection many... nglish farm laborer... r week, with bread... than he now pays... ne price; and as the... marked "free trade... n regard to wages... enabled us to de... bric and resources... made our marine... use of the world's... but not least, by... ster and illegitimate... icially fostered and... ntained the purity... t free trade has... f reform threatens... not say that free... ink it is. The as... n repelled before... driving back the... a this generation."... ord and others how... re in a country... ill endeavor to do... reminding protecu... ral right and that... rty is a wrong, as... n his neighbor... otection gives one... st others in favor... hness or ignorance... ades, and interests... otection likewise... be worse off than

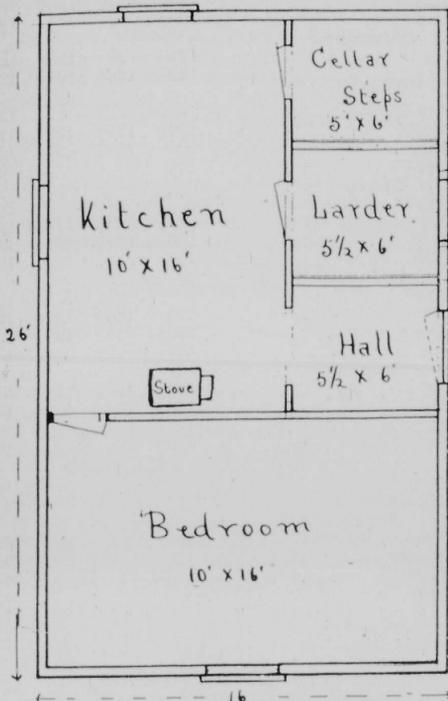
previously, owing to appreciation of prices all round whereby his purchasing power would be against him, and at the same time, vested interests and monopoly getting stronger and stronger, making it harder and harder to escape from the trap such short-sighted individuals had fallen into. Free trade tends to more general wealth among all classes than does protection. Protection tends to the excessive wealth of a small body of monopolists, but to the detriment of the interests of the general public. I hope to show, with the permission of the editor, in another letter, how free trade would benefit Canada, especially from an agricultural standpoint.

I think Mr. Trafford in his letter referring to Mr. Sparrow means, yours truly,
Edmonton.

T. W. SWALLOW.

A More Pretentious Shack

The shack design reproduced herewith, shows the ground plan of a rather more pretentious shanty than one finds homesteaders ordinarily building. The builder of this house, intending to make the home-



A LITTLE BETTER THAN THE AVERAGE HOMESTEADER'S ABODE.

stead a home, decided to have, first of all, something better than a tar-paper-sided, one-roomed box of a place to live in. The building is sixteen feet by twenty-six feet with a pitch roof.

How Awful!

One of our readers sends us the following item of news clipped from the *Birmingham Post*:

"Cold becomes really dangerous to human life when the temperature reaches 40 degrees below zero Fahrenheit (says 'Cassell's Saturday Journal'). The air is so intensely cold that one dare not take the slightest exertion in the open. Breathing such an atmosphere may actually freeze the lungs, the result of which is sudden, violent pneumonia and speedy death. When the thermometer registers such extremes as 40 below, people stay indoors, not from choice but from necessity.

"January 19th, 1904, was such a day. Over nearly all Canada and most of the northern part of the United States, the mercury fell to 48 degrees below zero.

"The results were extraordinary. The streets of great cities, like Montreal, were practically deserted; business was at a standstill. People were found frozen to death in their beds. Railway traffic was most seriously impeded. Owing to the intensity of the frost it was impossible to keep up adequate steam. Trains were two to five hours late."

And many good people in England marvel that our respect for the Old Land's great institutions of education, of politics, of commerce, and of society do not command the same respect here as they do "at home." Ignorance is a sure fore runner of ridicule. One would be quite within the mark to say that more people perish from exposure and cold in one winter in Birmingham than in all Canada.

Homesteading in a Timber Country

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Being an interested reader on all topics regarding homesteading, my experience may be of benefit and interest to other homesteaders. Homesteading is not altogether a summer holiday, as those who have tried it have no doubt discovered for themselves, but it is some comfort and encouragement to know that the 160 acres one is putting so much time and labor on will one day be his own. I have been in the country nearly two years and have a claim twenty-five miles west of Didsbury, which is our nearest town, though the post office is only nine miles away. Having a timber homestead our house is built of logs. The house is the first problem that presents itself to all homesteaders. I think it as well to build a comfortable fair sized building at the start as it costs very little in time and money when one has the logs at his disposal. He is also saved the necessity of building onto the original shack at some future time. If one has neighbors and friends he can change work and the building of his house need not cost anything but labor and time.

After the house building comes the question of furnishing the house on the inside. Some homesteaders hew the logs on the inside until the walls are very straight and fill the cracks with wood fibre making a neat inside wall. Then building paper, costing about a dollar a roll, may be pasted or tacked over the logs making them less unsightly. If one prefers, wall paper may be pasted over the building paper or the inside may be ceiled or boarded up which ever one prefers, or can afford.

The furnishing of one's home and making a living comes next. The former I was lucky enough to bring, with the exception of a few articles, but small poles are handy and convenient to make serviceable beds, benches, chairs and other articles of furniture as needed. As to the living our experience has taught us that a few dairy cows are the best solution to that problem. Have kept five cows since last April and they have brought us \$165 for butter, besides five calves and butter, milk and cream for table use. There is fruit on our own homestead, all that is required is the work it takes to gather it but who minds that. There are cranberries, blueberries, gooseberries and others equally good.

The hardest problem is getting the ground ready for cultivation, there being timber on it, but the trees are easier to clear off one's farm than a mortgage. The trees can be uprooted by means of a stump-puller requiring the use of one horse or a block and tackle requiring two horses. The question of hauling feed to our homesteads from the prairie is an important one but that problem will be solved when we get our land cleared and grow our own feed. The trees are not hard to pull. Another obstacle the homesteaders have to face is the question of school, but our school house is now being built and then school will commence and the community will be able also to have church services and Sunday school to attend.

Our house is situated on a southeast slope with trees all around. A spring of fine water flows just across the road which is fine for the stock, as the spring never freezes though the temperature gets fifty-four below sometimes. The house is built on the north and south road allowance. Fallen Timber Creek is not quite a mile east of us, has lovely pine trees on either side and is a splendid place to fish. I hope my remarks will help some other homesteader, as topics I have read in our paper have helped me.

One has an advantage on the timber homesteads in being able to trade wood for many things that is necessary, such as feed for stock, hay, groceries and flour, and if one succeeds in keeping out of debt and buying a few cows it is all he can expect to accomplish for the first couple of years.

Alta. A HOMESTEADER.

Some Hints to Homesteaders

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

A man realizes after passing through homestead days, if he had but started different, how much better off and happier he might have been. We take it for granted that the average homesteader, after paying \$10.00 to file on his homestead, has not much money left, this having been the average case in my district. The result is they are in a hurry, and I would refer them to page 14th of your January 6th issue, which so ably sketches, what practically the average homesteader does, namely, throws up his log shack, careless as to distance from water, stable, surveyed roads, which eventually will be worked up and mostly building in a low place, with no regard as to whether the shack, faces north, south, east or west. Apart from the essential team of horses or oxen, which most homesteaders when starting up have not, he must have a gun, tent, cooking stove, and necessary pans, also a good axe. A man in these circumstances should at once look up a good and fortunate neighbor possessing a team and arrange to exchange work, getting the neighbor to haul a set of logs.

I would say to the homesteader beginning, do not be in a too much hurry; build your shack well. Be sure and dovetail your logs, the common and quicker way of simply notching the logs into one another, is fit only for a temporary pig pen. A comfortable, clean, well-built shack is absolutely essential, if you wish to feel renewed energy every day.

When fencing up a pasture, the middle of the homestead will do but should not be used, as eventually you will find it necessary to alter the location of the pasture. Be sure and have, at least one of your pasture fences right on your homestead boundary line. Do this, and then naturally you will be sure and have your breaking running north and south, or east and west, not angling across the farmstead, any old way, because there happens to be a clear open piece of prairie. You have lots of time to clear that bluff away, or those stones on your north, south, east or west line, then, knowing where the survey monuments are, enclosing your quarter section, you are unlikely to go breaking, in blissful ignorance, partly on your neighbor's homestead, for which accommodation he is privileged to pay for or not. Having now got a nice strip of breaking, make it the half mile in length while you are about it. Do everything on the square, whether you do a trade with your neighbor, or in putting a day's work in on your own place.

A lonely life, I believe, has an average tendency to lower the morals. Let it occur to your mind occasionally that man was made unto the likeness of God. It will help stimulate you to respect your own person, and others. A bachelor needs a dog for company. Treat yourself the same as you would your hired man, get out early and work not too hard, but well every day. Hoping I have suggested something that may be helpful to a new homesteader, have had twelve years western experience, and am still an old bachelor. Take my advice boys, as soon as that shack is built, never mind making it comfortable, perhaps you have not the price of a second-hand chair left, and but a few handfuls of flour, you still have your shot gun, send away for the girl, if you have one, if not, get after one. She will help you make a farm of that homestead, and what's more she will make it a home, worth calling home.

A HOMELESS HOMESTEADER.

The Alberta Dry Farming Demonstration

The department of agriculture for Alberta, is presenting a section of land to Prof. H. W. Campbell, Lincoln, Nebraska, on which, and for which, Mr. Campbell will carry on some experimental, or demonstration rather, it is expected to be, through which it is hoped the gospel of dry farming will be sounded through all the semi-arid portions of the province. As soon as the farm is well established, excursions will be run to it from all southern points, that farmers in those districts where the gospel moisture conservation is most urgently required. In addition, it is expected that students will be taken in, who will be taught the principles of dry farming. Either Prof. Campbell, or some other capable man will be in charge of the farm at all times.

Prof. Campbell has gained, to a very marked degree, the confidence of the farmers of Alberta. He came to them with a farming story, not new by any means, for the principles of the Campbell system have been known and practiced long enough, but sufficiently fresh and so succinctly set forth as to be attractive. The practices advocated have been tried and found satisfactory. It is safe to say that hundreds of farmers in Alberta and Saskatchewan are practicing the new fangled dry farming methods, who would have been a long time putting into practice the same principles, had they been advocated under the guise of the more old fashioned summer fallow. In Manitoba, grain growers are getting the same results from summer fallowing as in the far West, they are getting them from dry farming. In truth the two systems are so nearly identical that for practical purposes they are one. However if Mr. Campbell or anybody else, by establishing a demonstration here or there, can show in a practical way, to those who need showing, that it is possible to grow crops in sections where the rainfall is inadequate, can drive home to some more minds, the absolute necessity of us in this Western country, working our soils in such a manner and in such season, as will retain for the use of the crop we plant thereon, the maximum proportion of the moisture that has fallen on that soil months previous to seeding. To this end the undertaking of the Alberta government is justifiable, the trading of a section of land that some of the thousands of acres in the southern parts may become grain producing.

An Automatic Grain Shocker

One of the latest inventions of a farm implement device is an automatic grain shocker which does away with the necessity of a man touching the sheaves until they are ready to fork on the wagons. This device was invented and patented by Mr. James Homon of Grandview, Man., who has organized a company to manufacture and sell the machine. A roughly constructed machine was used last year by Mr. Homon and pronounced by all who saw it to be entirely satisfactory and practicable. Expert implement men have examined it and declare that it is the first device of the kind that appears to do all that is required of a shocker, without the assistance of a man or two. The new machine is called the Homan automatic grain shocker and will probably be offered for sale this season.