

that is for each and every one of us to do the very best he can in every way he can to bring victory to the cause we have at heart, and it seems to me that in no way can the farmers do this better than by increasing the supply of food-stuffs.

Parliament Bldgs., Toronto. JAS. S. DUFF.

Conditions of Production.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Permit me to offer a few words in regard to increased agricultural production in Canada. In many cases by extra effort, if a beginning was made last autumn, it can and will be done, but unless extra labor is forthcoming for a large proportion of farms it will resolve itself into a more economical use of the present workers, labor-saving implements and horses. Every man will judge for himself according to the products for which his farm and markets are best adapted and which will conserve its resources for the future. The waste and destruction of men, once workers in Europe, foreshadow a tremendous need. We shall need to brace ourselves for sacrifice yet undreamed of and take the chance, if need be, even of over-production. Better low prices and the absence of profit than that, first of all, the people of Belgium, dispossessed, cruelly outraged and robbed, should want for food before the remnant of them can resume their once happy homes. Probably a more effective and economical way of presenting the case for production, if indeed any were needed in these days of search-light publicity, would have been a carefully prepared appeal by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Commerce dealing specifically with products likely to be most needed, and published broadcast through the agricultural and newspapers press reaching the farm rank and file, and supplementing this with some heroic measures to augment the working forces on the land from the capable unemployed of the towns. While the authorities are maturing their plans for the latter the most immediately workable one yet offered was that, suggested lately in "The Farmer's Advocate," of neighbors co-operating or "changing word," as we used to call it, during extra busy seasons like seeding, haying and harvest, or taking off the corn crop. One encouraging fact let me record in conclusion, viz., that Nature appears to be favoring us in that I have never known a fall and winter in which the weather conditions, (with ample snow and fine sleighing in many areas) were better calculated to advocate work, facilitate rural business and put the land in prime readiness for the seeding and planting of 1915.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

A. B. C.

A Satisfactory Farm House.

Herewith we publish the ground floor and second floor plan of a very suitable farm house together with an illustration of the building when completed, the property of W. T. Whale, Wellington Co., Ont. The size of the house is 35 feet on each of the two longest sides, the lay out and size of rooms is marked on the plan. This house is steam heated, and is equipped with bath and closet, and is in every particular up-to-date. It is a solid brick building, and required about 15,000 face brick in building besides the inside brick.

The septic tank and sewage system was installed at a cost of \$40.00. There are two tanks, one 5 feet by 6 feet by 4 feet, and one 2 feet by 5 feet by 4 feet, with septic valve in small one and tile drain leading from it about 15 inches from surface. The bath fixtures and all plumbing, consisting of hot water boiler attached to kitchen stove, wash basin, bath tub and commode, hard and soft water tank in attic, (hard water put in by wind mill and soft water by hand pump) cost \$150.00. The heating system cost \$265.00, consisting of furnace, seven radiators, as marked R. on plan, all complete. It requires from 3½ to 4½ tons of coal to run each year, and there is no dust in the house with the hot water as with hot air, as there is no draft, and another advantage in favor of hot water is that you can get the heat where you want it, as the wind does not affect it the same as a hot air furnace. No gas comes from the furnace to rooms above. These figures on hot water installation may be of some value to readers, and the plan is a very good one for a farm house. The cellar is divided into four compartments with a solid brick wall between. The milk cellar is tiled and plastered. The milk cellar is under the pantry with a dumb waiter leading to it from the pantry. The furnace is under the parlor, and a general store room, and under the dining room a vegetable cellar.

All-year Work Necessary.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is one phase of the rural problem that appears to have been overlooked by most of your correspondents, or if not exactly overlooked, has been considered of insufficient importance to be worth considering. While I agree that our rural problem is mainly one of finance, yet it must not be forgotten that there are other points to be considered, the chief of which appears to be the labor problem. By the labor problem I do not mean the usual shortage of men to work the farms during the summer months, which so many farmers are content to give as an excuse for not adopting modern methods of cultivation, but the great scarcity of men of the right kind; that is men who have had some experience in the handling of stock and can be trusted to work intelligently as well as faithfully. That such men are

hired man a fair deal and work all the year round. It is true that in the matter of offering "high wages and short days" the farmer is heavily handicapped as compared with the manufacturer; he does not receive the bonus or a free site or protection from competition that many of the city business men get; still there is no doubt that it is possible for him to at least partially solve the problem of securing efficient labor without any great legislative changes.

The experience of one farmer in Norfolk county may be interesting in this connection and also help to make the point clear. Four years ago, this man was running a mixed farm in the usual way, with the help of a hired man during the summer. He experienced considerable difficulty each spring in securing a man in time for seeding, and often had to practically do the work of two men, and still could not always get his crops sown in time to get the best results. Getting

tired of this, he finally sold about one-half the farm and built a greenhouse and devoted a part of the other half to growing small fruits and truck crops; and in less than two years more than doubled his profits. It is true that he now needs more men and also better men to work his farm, but the point is this, that so far as he is concerned, the labor problem is practically solved; as under the system of farming that he now follows, he can give three men regular work, winter and summer; and under these circumstances finds no difficulty in keeping good men, whereas formerly he had considerable trouble in

getting one man for the summer months. But, it may be objected, we cannot all sell half our farms and build greenhouses and grow truck crops, that is quite true, and it is a good thing that we cannot, but it is also true that there are a number of changes that we can make, that will do a great deal to remedy this state of affairs. The whole trouble is that we cannot find work for the men for more than about eight months out of the twelve.

To overcome this trouble we must so rearrange our farms and our crops, that there will be at least some profitable work to do in the winter, and at the same time relieve some of the pressure of work during the spring and summer. There are several different lines of farming, any one of which, under careful management, will give sufficient work in the winter, to make the hiring of a man by the year a good investment. It seems to me that we can never hope to meet the competition of the manufacturer in the labor market until we can give continuous work at a fair wage; and to do this we must discard the old practice of producing a little of nearly everything of only ordinary quality and devote our whole attention and energy to the production of



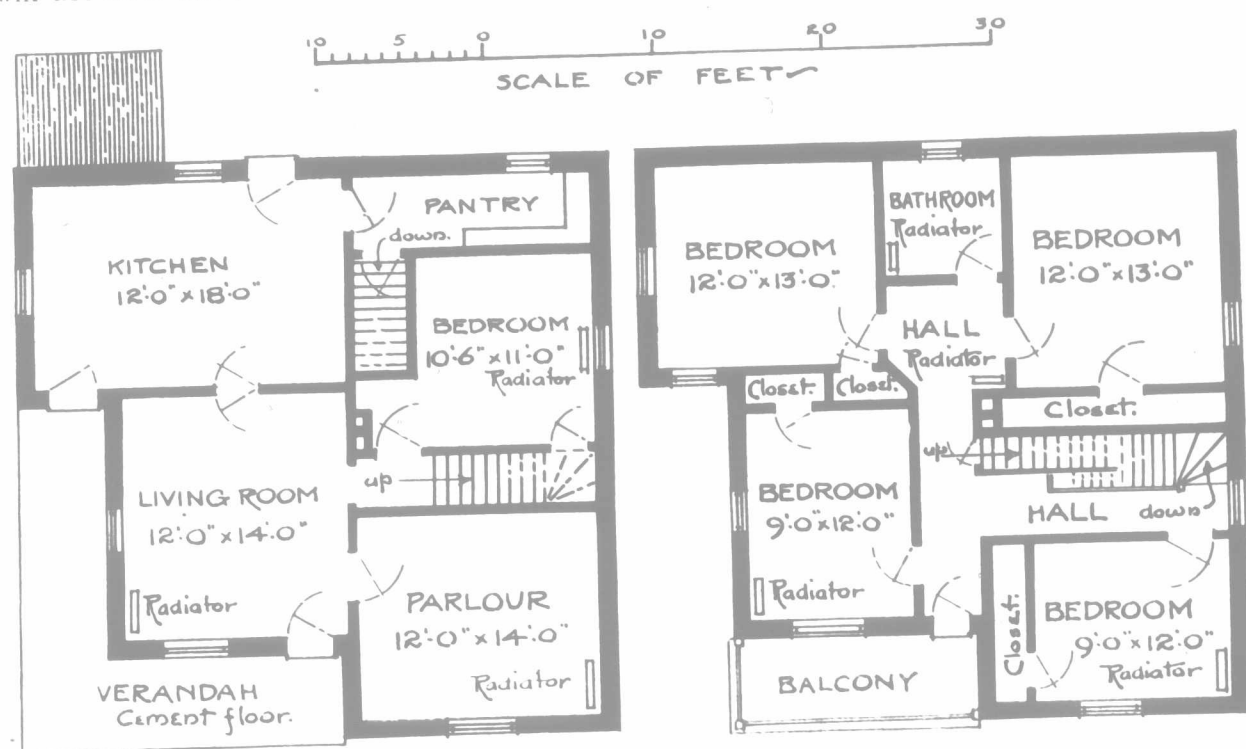
A Substantial Farm Home.

Residence of W. T. Whale, Wellington Co., Ont.

not by any means easy to obtain there can be no doubt and it seems to me that a large part of our problem is to find out the cause of this scarcity, and also some means of remedying it.

One of the main causes of the difficulty experienced by many farmers in securing and keeping suitable men is our system of farming, which necessitates all the work being done during seven or eight months of the year. A man may be hired in the spring; he may be a good, capable man in every way, and experienced in the work required of him, yet owing to the fact that with our present methods of farming there is little work to be done after the land freezes, the farmer must part with him; and trust to good luck or Providence to send another man along in the spring. Is it not likely that when a man has been turned from the farm in the fall that he will go to the city and still more likely that he will stay there in the spring, and can it be reasonably expected that under such a system we shall ever have anything but a shortage of good men?

All the work that can be done in advertising the different counties and bringing in immigrants will not solve this problem until we can give the



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

Plan of W. T. Whale's Farm House.