



WILLARD CHOCOLATE COMPANY'S FACTORY. TORONTO.

Willard Chocolate Co's Premises

Several of the structures illustrated in this issue relate to developments in one particular vicinity of Toronto, and reflect a steady expansion of industrial and commercial requirements which is characteristic of most of the principal Canadian cities. The Willard Chocolate Company's factory, on Wellington street west, Toronto, one of the subjects presented, is quite representative of a certain class of buildings being erected. It is of mill construction, 56 x 200 feet, providing altogether approximately 56,000 square feet of floor space, the plan and equipment being of a character in keeping with the usual features in a building of this type.

"Cob Houses"

In a recent issue of the London Daily Mail, Mr. T. C. Bridges writes interestingly on the subject of "cob houses" which correspond to the "adobe" on this continent. This method of building was discontinued in England about sixty years ago, but now an attempt is being made to again bring it into use to meet the housing needs in certain districts.

"All over Devon," says the writer, "and down around Essex as well, cob walls, cob cottages, and cob outbuildings are everywhere to be seen. Very picturesque they are, too, especially when white or pink washed.

"Cob is a clay mixed with straw, and built up just like modern concrete. A bottomless trough is used, made of two parallel planks. The clay, mixed with chopped straw, is pressed into it, and each course is allowed to dry before the next is put on. The result is a wall of great thickness, considerable strength, and of such durability that cob houses are still inhabited which were built five or six hundred years ago. A cob house well thatched is warmer in winter and cooler in summer than any brick or stone building, and there are no such walls for ripening wall fruit as those constructed in this simple fashion.

"Nor is 'cob' confined to Devonshire. There are cob walls in Somerset, in Northamptonshire, and probably in other parts of the country as well; while in Mexico, Texas, Arizona, and in Southern California many of the great ranch houses are 'cob' all through, only they call it 'adobe.'

In view of the crying need for new cottages in the near future, the writer suggests that in "cob" may be found a cheap and satisfactory substitute for brick or stone. He then explains that "cob" is far drier than most of the building stone used, claiming it to be one of the most picturesque of building materials, and concludes, with a strong plea that an effort should be made in England to resuscitate this almost forgotten method of construction.