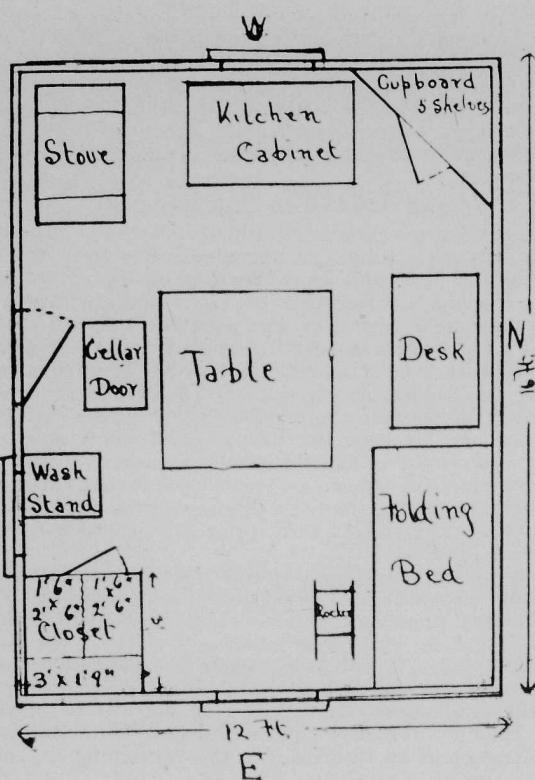


Bachelor Problems

In contributing to this interesting discussion of bachelor problems, I would like to begin by endorsing most emphatically the opinion which has been expressed by "One of the Many" and other writers, that the first thing the homesteader needs on his own little piece of Canada is a wife. But as these letters are intended chiefly for the assistance of bachelor homesteaders, I will not enlarge upon that side of the question, except to say that my own experience and observation, extending over two winters and one summer of homesteading and batching, have brought me to the firm conclusion that a suitable marriage will not only bring a homesteader a great deal of happiness and comfort, but will also be profitable to him and his partner. Some homesteaders say they cannot afford to get married; when, if they only knew it, they cannot afford to stay single. But supposing the homesteader is a bachelor, there is still no reason why he should not make his shack comfortable and homelike, and at the same time inexpensive. There are many ways of building and I have been into almost every kind of dwelling, costing from \$20 to \$2,000 and built of sod, logs, and lumber. The warmest place I ever was in was the sod shanty of a neighbor of mine, but on the other hand, there is another sod building only a short distance away, which was built in the summer of 1907 and had to be abandoned last winter because it could not be kept warm. The first was built of good tough sods taken from low ground where the grass roots were thick and strong; it was carefully built so that no holes or chinks were left, and it was finished with a coat of plaster (made from the subsoil clay with some finely chopped straw, and a very little horse manure). The cost of this building was very small. There was lumber for the floor and door, a window, half a dozen logs for ridge poles and supports, and the hire of a team to plow and haul the sods, and then the plastering which a Doukhobor did for five dollars, about \$25 in all, and a few day's work by the owner. The other sod shanty was built carelessly, the fatal mistake was made of taking sods where the land was sandy, and the result was that it began to fall down before it had been built six months, and was then useless.

If there is timber near, a log building, well plastered, is to be recommended, but where logs cannot be conveniently procured, and lumber is too expensive for the homesteader, a sod building, either for house or stable, will prove warm and comfortable and will meet the requirements of most homesteaders until they can afford a more permanent and handsome home. If the money can be spared, a lumber shack is perhaps preferable, and this should be planned so that it may be added to in the future. I have a lumber shack 12 by 14 feet, with 8 foot walls and a peak roof 12 feet high in the center. There is a door and window on the south side and a window in the east. To this I can add a lean-to on the north, 8 by 14, to be used as granary while my crop is small, then as an addition to the dwelling house, and by and by I can build a two storey house on the west side and use the original building as a kitchen.

The homesteader will find that he can use lots of money before he gets well started on his place, but if he is resourceful and determined, he will find he can still get along after his stock of cash is exhausted. A great deal can be done by exchanging work with



A SASKATCHEWAN HOMESTEADER'S ABODE

neighbors. In most districts there are men with all kinds of outfits. Some have good horses and complete outfits of machinery, others, perhaps, have a yoke of oxen, a plow, and a wagon, and there are others again whose entire stock and implements consist of a cat, a spade, and an axe. Perhaps none of them have any too much money, and so an exchange of labor is arranged. The man without horses grubbs out patches of scrub, drives a team, pitches hay, and helps on the many occasions when an extra man is needed, and in return the other breaks a few acres of land, puts in a bit of crop, or lends a team for a few days. In this way, homesteaders can help one another to their mutual advantage, and I, as one without horses, got a considerable amount of improvements done to my quarter section last year by helping my neighbors erect buildings, clear land, put up hay, and harvest crops. The wife of my nearest neighbor makes a regular income by selling milk and bread to the bachelors of the immediate district, and there are many ways of earning something if one is anxious to do so. Even a bachelor, however, should keep a cow and also make his own bread. I did both last summer, but sold the cow in the fall when I left the homestead for a few weeks, arranging to be paid for her with breaking next summer. Bread-making is difficult in winter unless a fire is kept alight most of the night, but in warm weather it is just as easy as making baking powder biscuits, or bannock, with which many bachelors content themselves. I have often been asked for my receipt for bread, so I will give it here. Buy a box of yeast cakes and follow the directions on the box.

Many people suppose that the life of a bachelor homesteader is necessarily dull, especially during the winter months, but this is not the case, in this district at any rate. A man will not be dull if he has plenty of work to do, and those who have nothing else to occupy them can spend a good deal of their time visiting the busier neighbors who will always be glad to see someone drop in for an evening's chat. Occasionally, a surprise party is held, fifteen or twenty coming down in a body upon some unsuspecting bachelor, and proceeding to have a good time in his house. We take a supply of eatables with us, a pack of cards, and a musician if we can get one, and we are always welcome. Being prudent people, we never go home in the dark, but generally return by milking time.

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words to a very numerous class—the class to which I myself belong—that is, young men who do not intend to become farmers, but who look to homesteading as a change from city life, a period of mental and physical recuperation and an investment of time and money which will prove profitable.

For myself, I am entirely satisfied with the results of following this plan. In spite of living on my own cooking for over a year past, I am ten pounds heavier than when I started homesteading, and I never felt better in my life.

I had a pretty good time, too. In the summer I sometimes worked and sometimes played, and attended a few picnics and dances. In the fall I fished, and shot ducks, geese, and prairie chickens; and in the winter I tramped around on snow-shoes and visited friends when I needed exercise, or stayed at home and read when I didn't. I also found interesting occupation and got some valuable experience by taking part in local public affairs, chiefly in connection with school matters, being one of the trustees.

Homesteading, under these circumstances, is more expensive than most people think, but the amount of money required depends on the ability and willingness of the homesteader to work at his buildings and on his land. He will need money at every step, for

a trip to select his land, for the building of his house, for furniture, for provisions, and for breaking. It will cost \$4.50 or \$4.75 for every acre he breaks, \$3.00 for breaking and \$1.50 or \$1.75 for backsetting, or discing and harrowing, and then he will have to find more money next spring for seed and seeding. Personally, I should not care to start homesteading on the smallest scale with less than \$500, and with that sum one will probably find it necessary to save a little more by working at his own trade during the six months that he is not required to spend on his land.

Greystone, Sask.

J. W. WARD.

A Saskatchewan Bachelor's Shack

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In the last few issues, various readers have been discussing the different styles of a bachelor's shack, and I quite agree with a lot that has been said, but think that some of the plans and descriptions can be improved upon a little. I am a homesteader myself, so can quite appreciate the arm chair or rocker, as I have one myself and think it quite indispensable, although I own it is an extra item of expense, but think of the hours of ease a man can have in one of them during the long winter months, especially if he is a reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

I am enclosing a rough plan of my shack and any one building a shack similar to mine will find it very convenient. I would certainly recommend any bachelor to have a folding bed, as not only does it give you more room in the daytime, but the top of it makes a piece of furniture and there are many people who haven't the least idea that it is a bed.

Another convenient thing for a bachelor to have is a kitchen table cooking cabinet, as it not only serves as a table if you have company and require to use it as such, but it keeps your flour, sugar, oatmeal and other sundry cooking materials, nice and clean and very handy to get at. If a man has the money to spare, he can invest a few dollars to a great advantage in a small writing desk, as then he has a place to keep all his papers and odds and ends, without leaving them all around the shack, never knowing where to find any particular letter or thing he requires.

Another convenience is a small wardrobe or clothes closet in one corner. My shack is 12' x 16' with 8" studding, so in one corner I made a clothes closet and use the upper 6 1/2' as such, I have five drawers in the bottom, three on one side and two on the other. The two serve as a back to the three. I made the top one the full length and two thirds of the width of the closet which is 3 ft. square, so the drawer is 3 ft. long and 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. deep, and the two bottom ones are 6 ins. deep and half the size of the top one. These three open to the front and the two that open at the side are the full length of the closet and 9 inches deep, with a couple of partitions. The ones at the side also serve as the back of the ones in front.

In another corner I have a three-cornered cupboard for dishes, pots, pans, etc., which, equipped with a pair of doors is very clean and convenient.

I have a pitch roof to my shack, and ceiling inside and overhead, so I have a comfortable little box.

Sask.

SAM'L HARRIS.

Many thanks for the knife I received. It's a dandy and well worth finding a subscriber or two.

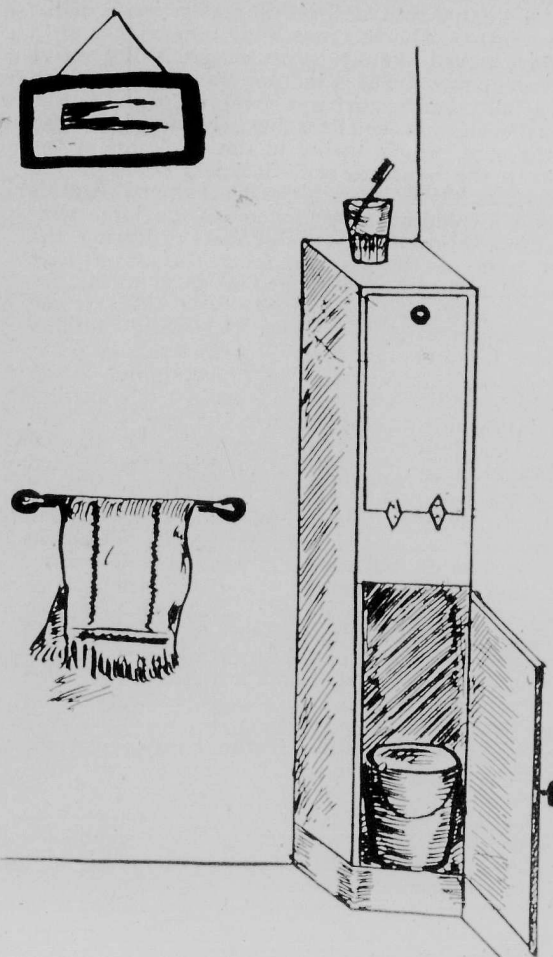
Central Butte.

H. POLLOCK.

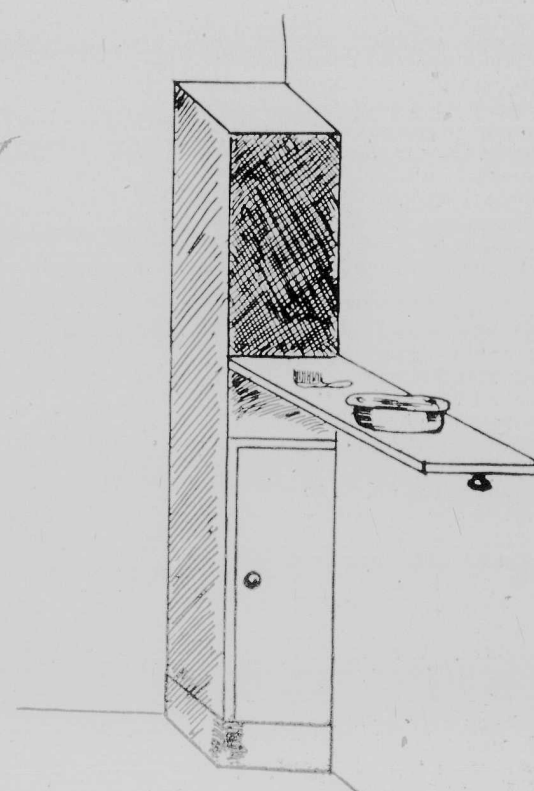
The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is silver lined, gold crowned, copper bottomed and ironbound.

Alta.

P. S. WASHBURN.



AUTOMATIC WASHSTAND CLOSED.



AUTOMATIC WASHSTAND OPEN.

The Big We

Farmers in Western enthusiastic over the winter show and seed grain fair the 9th to the 12th. Arranged for to bring the from Binscarth to Brandon.

More than enough entered the building, some of the being entered for the horse.

In the poultry department 2000 birds on exhibition.

About 60 of the students paring to take part in which is in charge of Prof.

Single rates will be in f Brandon City Council w commodation for every vi

Manitoba Far

After looking over the produce high-class seed of Valley River, Man., later sections about three will take possession in intention is to enlarge h and will give special atte proved strains of Red Fi he has carried on for som an increase in trade d shipping facilities are m more open. Mr. Moore the grain growing west at is universally desired.

Foreign Cro

The U. S. Crop Report bullish in tone. The con crop the world over, on F using. Taking the Europe the late sowings in Aust show some improvement, Sharp changes of temper have been the chief meteo tral European countries. believed that any serious growing crop, but the lar most part and a return t is likely to do considerable shows fair promise, but setback of late sowing in

In Bulgaria and Roum from 20 to 30 per cent. sn crop is said to be coming condition. The crop for protected by snow. The section is rated as favora throughout Southwestern months of winter, and at without snow covering. pated though it may not able conditions would inc wheat crop in most provi in the fall.

In Great Britain the on snow has been a feature Isles, and it is believed crop has not been equa very similar weather con the situation is not entire sown rather late last fall inches, and fears are apprel able weather now prevail that will seriously check crop. In Southern Euro promise. In the South operations are practical decided change in the cro wheat crop of New South well below last year's st Victoria remains good in Australia excellent. The culture about the first of mates of yield and of pr lows: Wheat—crop, 171 exportation (including fl flax seed—crop, 42,750,000 million bushels; oats—e bushels. This estimate crop of this year some 2 record harvest of last year

From India, this year's cluding the Native States Eastern Bengal and Ass about 16.5 per cent of the ported to be 4 1/2 million a than the sowings at the sa 2 1/2 million acres, or 11 per of the final returns for 1906-7. Unless the ex conditions prevailing in 19 sowings are kept in mind last two years is likely to statistics given in the first as follows: 1908-9, 20,1 645,200 acres; average, 22,664,500 acres.

The condition of the A is not discussed