

SECOND FLOOR.

There were used 120 barrels of cement and 68 one hundred pound bags of hard wall plaster. This material will vary in price according to the amount of freight to be paid. There were 16 bushels of lime used in the second coat, and 400 bricks for one chimney. The tinsmith came 20 miles to install the furnace, pipes, etc. Ninety loads of gravel and 30 loads of stone, all big loads, were used in the walls. The cost is given below:

Lumber	.....	\$529 10
Cement	.....	300 00
Hardware	.....	174 90
Plaster, lime and brick	.....	95 85
Painting, including materials	.....	110 85
Carpenter work	.....	193 25
Lathing and plastering	.....	138 50
Frame building	.....	60 00
Cresting	.....	30 00
Barb wire	.....	5 00
General work	.....	11 50
Furnace	.....	125 00
Installing furnace, roof and pipes	.....	81 90
Digging drain	.....	32 50
Digging Cellar	.....	38 75
Expert labor on walls	.....	65 00
Other labor on walls	.....	37 25
Teaming	.....	206 00
Board of men	.....	130 00

Total.....\$2,366 35

Making Alfalfa Hay

The time to cut alfalfa is when it has begun to bloom, the lower leaves have begun to turn yellow and drop off, and buds are starting out from the base of the stems. Cut then, for it has in it the greatest amount of nutrients. Allowed to stand longer the stems become woody, some of the leaves are lost, and the hay is not so palatable, nutritious or digestible. If cut too soon before the buds have set on the stems, sometimes the succeeding crop is seriously injured, for what reason is not yet known.

If possible all of one crop should be cut down within a week, seeing that it is all ready at one time. Thus the hay is secured in best condition and the following crop is benefited by being given the space in which to grow. Wide cut mowers are convenient things in the alfalfa field. After the hay is laid down the haymakers should keep close watch, and as soon as it shows signs of drying and

before the leaves will fall from the stems, it should be raked into small windrows and permitted to cure in part in the windrow, or in the cock, according to where you are and what sort of climate you must work in. Alfalfa dried in the swath loses many of the leaves when raked.

Side delivery hay rakes work well in alfalfa meadows, since they leave the hay loose, in good condition for drying. In eastern meadows, under showery conditions, the hay is best cocked up in small cocks while it is yet tough. Such cocks will turn rain well, and may be afterward opened out on a sunny day, or they may become dry without opening. Then, too, hay caps may be used on the cocks to advantage.

To test dryness take a wisp of the hay, choosing a damp part of it, and twist it violently into a rope. If no moisture can be made to exude from

the stems the hay may be put into the mow or stack, especially if many tons are to be put together. If only a ton or two will be put into a small mow it should be well dried before putting away, since it is more apt to mould and become dusty than when much is piled together.

JOSEPH E. WING.

Cultivating the Corn Crop

Many think that there is nothing more to do after the corn is planted for two weeks until it is up and large enough for the "first cultivation."

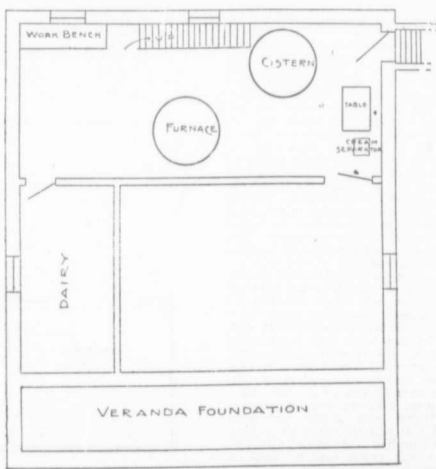
There are others who believe in harrowing and even in cultivation before the corn is up, but on account of the pressure of work, neglect it. Where ground is left in this manner for two weeks, and often longer, it becomes foul with weeds, which take up moisture and plant food and make it difficult to work the corn. The ground is packed by the rains and baked by the sun until it becomes hard and dry; that is, "out of condition."

It is especially important in the case of corn that it should not be stunted when young, as it never fully recovers, even under the most favorable conditions. We should keep a good, mellow, lively tilth until the corn shades the ground, preventing the rain and sun from beating upon it, making it hard, dry and mealy.

The time to kill weeds is before they come up and before they have deprived the corn of moisture and nourishment.

Where it is possible to do so, it is a good plan to cultivate the corn at once before it comes up, following the cultivator with the harrow. If the piece is small so that the cultivation can be finished before the corn breaks through the surface, it is well enough to wait until the field is all cultivated, and then cross it with the harrow instead of following closely behind the cultivator. However, in case of large fields, it is best to follow the cultivator with the harrow.

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Cellar Plan, Mr. Potter's house.