

the sake of convenience we will call it "Alberta Wonder." It will surpass anything yet seen in creation. We will suppose that we have had a heavy crop and that we are taking a few loads to the mill. The miller will look at the wheat and admire it and ask us what new variety it is. We will say, "This is 'Alberta Wonder.'" "Well," he will say, "this is the finest wheat I have ever seen but I am going to dock you twenty cents a bushel." "Why?" "Well, your Alberta Wonder is a fine wheat but the flour made from it has a 'green' tinge."

If farmers like to stand together they can get all which is in itself reasonable and fair. I shall be satisfied with nothing less. I speak boldly because I am a farmer and have no one to fear.

ALLAN SWAN.

Suggestions for House Plans.

In addition to suggestions offered in our last week's issue on house building by J. E. G. we give below the opinions of others on this subject. In house building the tendency has been to favor a very large edifice, with the result that for the greater part of the year several of the rooms go unoccupied, or certain rooms that should be in constant use are thrown open only on rare occasions. This latter defect is due to the fact that many houses are so constructed that the sitting room is too difficult of access from the dining room or that the one room is made to serve as kitchen, dining room and living room. Of late habits of occupying houses have been changing people are coming to use the kitchen only for kitchen purposes and to use the dining room for ordinary living purposes and the sitting room more frequently in the evenings. The plans published in our May 23rd issue are examples of houses where this practice can be carried out.

The opinions given below are by farmers and are mostly upon the average size and cost of the house the ordinary farmer should build. If any others of our readers have ideas upon house building we should be glad to give them publicity. We especially ask the women to comment upon the plans published in our May 23rd issue and to offer any suggestions they may think valuable or commend any one to the plans.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In this locality, which is an old and well settled one, the tendency is to build houses with about eight rooms for the average farmer and to have cheaper cottages or frame houses for the hired help.

Some stone is used, but brick veneer, solid brick and frame are more common. More attention is being given to the surroundings and outside appearances than formerly.

In looking over some of the more modern houses there are some things that one wonders should be found in them. Too often the foundation is too low which makes a dark cellar, and very often a house costing from three to five thousand dollars is built on the old fashioned T plan with two large rooms in front down stairs and a large combined kitchen and dining room behind. In these days of advanced architecture one would think something more attractive and convenient would be built.

One of the most popular plans is to have rather a small kitchen with modern conveniences, a good sized dining room with wide arch into the sitting room, something like plans B and D in your May 23rd number. Farmers are realizing more generally that the comforts of a home do not consist in a large house as in having the house well furnished and comfortable, and much of the money which formerly went into the building of a miniature mansion now goes into the furnishing and outside adornment.

Man.

J. F. S.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With regard to size I think about ten rooms for the average half section farm house with the average family is big enough; less would hardly

do, and two more would be preferable. As a rule a house grows with the farm, and I have found my own grow into a fairly comfortable one.

As for walls, cement blocks would be my choice for appearance, durability, warmth and dryness (of the walls), if the blocks were well made by a competent man; but unless first class sand is obtainable near the building site, the cost would be prohibitive. Stone in some localities is easily obtained, and if there is no need to rush, the work can be gradually accumulated by the force on the farm, making it a comparatively cheap material. It of course requires a dead air space between the walls and the plaster to prevent sweating. Brick veneer makes a warm house, but it is a regular fire trap. Solid brick makes a splendid house, warm, safe and durable, but is very expensive. Lumber, which must enter very largely into the construction of every house, especially the best or grades, is getting to be almost out of reach of any but a millionaire, and I fear when I come to look at the matter from all points, we shall soon have to return to the original sods and canvas, at any rate as far as cost and availability go.

The cost of the house must depend entirely on the available means of the farmer, and his tastes. To build a comfortable ten roomed house, well furnished inside and out, and with average modern conveniences, would require at least \$1,500.00, and might easily cost \$5,000.00. Whilst a new settler with only average means could comfortably house himself and wife for about \$500.00 and have room for his hired help and a child or two. He would have to do a good deal of the work himself for that.

The first point for a farmer to consider in planing his house is whether he will require more room in the future. If so he should lay out his house so that it can be easily added to as required. The next is the choosing of the site, which, in the first place should insure good drainage. Nothing is more annoying, or detrimental to health, than a door yard which in spring, and after all heavy rains, is ankle deep in mud, for which the only means of escape is often by filtering into the well which supplies the house and perhaps also the stock. In the latter case the filth accumulating round the wells in the winter and working up into an unsavory morass in the spring is sometimes appalling. Next, the grounds should receive far more attention than is frequently the case. A lawn big enough for tennis or croquet should be provided for, especially if there are young folks in the family with a few flower beds near the house and an ornamental fence between the lawn and the vegetable garden; caragana, lilacs or maples will be satisfactory if given ordinary attention. No more should be laid out than can receive proper care or it will surely be neglected and unsightly. There should be a veranda facing garden and lawn with virginia creeper trained over it, and if possible a belt of trees between house and stables.

The dairy should be of stone with cement floor and open from the kitchen for convenience, and for this reason if possible the kitchen should be on the north side of the house. If the well is convenient to the kitchen there is no difficulty in arranging the pump inside the kitchen, running the pipes well underground to the well. The same arrangement can be used to a soft water cistern using lift pumps with angle joints on the pipes. I don't like the idea of a cistern located under a house as it is bound to get foul occasionally.

All steps should be low and the stairs not steep, as the women folk have to use them many times a day, and the men will appreciate the difference after a hard day's work. A bow window in the sitting room is a wonderful improvement. When filled with healthy looking plants it makes a room bright on the darkest winter day. A summer kitchen and woodshed are a wonderful comfort and convenience.

I regret to say some of these suggestions arise from the knowledge of what it means to do without.

ARTHUR C. HAWKINS.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

With regard to house building in the Northwest I may state that about a six roomed house, kitchen, dining room and sitting room and three bed rooms, is large enough. You can get this amount of room in an 18 x 24 main part and 12 x 14 addition, for kitchen use, 12 x 14 foot studding for the main part. We are using principally wood but if there be stone convenient it is in some cases preferable, but will cost about the same as wood and is not as warm. A house as above described will cost from \$700.00 to \$900.00. Of course a much cheaper one can be built and I might state that the majority of farm houses do not cost more than \$500.00. I mean in cases of new settlers. We are now seeing many farm houses erected costing from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00, principally brick at this cost. I advise in erecting houses to first excavate for cellar, and for this to be frost proof, the excavation should be about three feet inside of the foundation. It can either be boarded up to joist or stoned, making stone foundation for outside dimensions of the house. The house should be back plastered between studding inside, double boarded and papered outside. By doing this you save in fuel besides having the comfort, etc.

D. J. DUTTON.

Agriculture in Different Provinces.

Reverend Father Burke is a progressive parish priest down in Prince Edward Island and is one of the leading lights in the agricultural life of the little Island Province. He has made a study of agricultural methods and practices and in a letter to FARMER'S ADVOCATE of London, Ont., speaks optimistically and prophetically of the agricultural future of the several provinces. In part he says:

"The amazing generosity with which the public purse of Ontario helps out the basic interest of agriculture within her limits, is still a matter of the greatest edification to the other Provinces where no such understanding of the public necessities on this head obtains, and, therefore, as yet no adequate attempt made to require them. We have before us the reports and other agricultural bulletins authorized by the Department of Agriculture of Ontario for the past year. They are as comprehensive in the matters they touch as those of the General Government at Ottawa, and they extend far more fully to every department of agricultural effort. They are a credit to Ontario. She is well ahead in the agricultural race, and with such organization, and a policy so just and adequate to agriculture, must keep well ahead. An influence like that, too, must do much for contiguous States and Provinces.

The new Provinces are setting out with plenty of means. They will model their agricultural institutions on Ontario's best effort, and all her methods will be adopted, at least all desirable for and requisite in the new political divisions. The Deputies of Agriculture, in organizing, have a free hand, and may be depended on to equip the different departments of the service with the most up-to-date appliances. There is no reason to fear but that they will speedily come up to the standard in efficiency now exacted for agricultural administration everywhere. The Western leaders came out of Ontario—Guelph, likely—all of them, and will not want artificial stimulants for their already buoyant ambitions. British Columbia, for a mineral country, is surprising everybody in the encouragement she is giving to the various branches of husbandry, which, one place or another, over extensive or restricted area, she is developing so wonderfully. The generous grants, the well-qualified staff of workers, the enthusiasm and unbridled ambitions of her farmers, stockraisers and fruit men—all promise a substantial triumph. Manitoba is now well equipped with her agricultural college centering all hopes, and aiding in the prudent direction of her teachers. In Quebec there is a spirit abroad which promises to place her in rivalry with Ontario, even. No longer are her farmers satisfied to get their instruction from abroad; they are preparing to do the work effectually at home. The Province will be generous to agriculture, give it everything it asks for, and all now depends on the prudence of her leaders. The St. Anne's College and Dr. Robertson, whilst such may reach the French-Canadian, because of the denominational character of the school, will



Plowing on McBean Bros. Farm, Brandon, Man.