

Weekly Bureau of Information for All Who Till the Soil or Are Interested in Making Homes

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

All inquiries and communications addressed to The Times-Dispatch will receive prompt attention. This department will appear each Monday, and contributions or suggestions will be welcomed.

Facts for Farmers, Stock Breeders, Poultry Raisers, Orchardists, Truckers and Gardeners—Queries and Answers

THE FARM BEAUTIFUL

The attractive appearance of our farm buildings is only slightly less in importance to their economy and convenience, says Dr. D. A. Clark. At the present time farm buildings, in common with most of our American structures, offer but little evidence that serious thought has been bestowed upon their character or their disposition. In a general way, buildings are frequently proportioned to meet their needs, and are rather conveniently placed in their relationship to one another. Yet, in respect to architectural character, they are almost without exception very bad. If we disregard the few that have come down to us from colonial days, even the very best of our farm buildings, while discussing matters of economy and convenience and details of construction, fail to give consideration to artistic excellence. In fact, many of their illustrations depict buildings as faulty in this respect as those on the most despicable farm. Their hard lines stand out boldly, while nature tends to soften the bad lines of the roof.

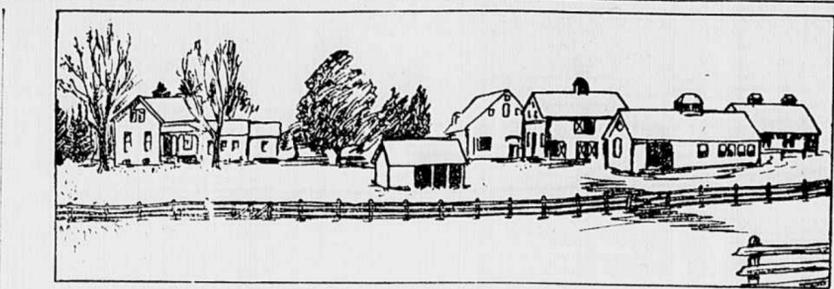
This is the unfortunate state of affairs, although good architecture imposes no additional cost in money, but is merely the convenient and artistic adaptation of a structure to the highest fulfillment of its ends. When there is so much that is bad in the buildings of the present it is not strange that those on the farms are poor. Let us be hopeful for the future. We will bring a change for the better, just as it is effecting a betterment in so many of our country houses.

In its broadest aspect, this improvement is called for by economy of construction, convenience of use and attractiveness of appearance. However, all this cannot be met by any stereotyped scheme of arrangement or style of architecture. Each case will have to be treated on its own merits, and there are always modifying factors, such as kind of farming acreage, climate, prevailing customs and character of building material.

In discussing this matter of a fitting farm architecture it will be well to consider the following broad aspects: materials of construction and the factors determining their use, style of architecture and the interior arrangement; the elements that should give it character; the relationship of the principal farm buildings; the methods to be employed in accomplishing this betterment.

The material which is used in the construction of any given set of farm buildings will depend upon a number of factors. Yet in selecting these materials should never overlook the desirability of giving the buildings a local color and of having them harmonize with their native surroundings.

There should be developed a general style of architecture which could in the main be adapted to the different farm buildings. It should straightforwardly meet the needs to be served and should be simple, broad and pleasing in form and line. The material to be used will react upon the style in no small degree, for it is evident that a stone or concrete structure is functionally different from one developed of wood.



A Good Arrangement for Farm Buildings. The Barns and Stock Buildings, Conveniently Grouped Together.

With the causative organism, and thus rendered unsuitable for raising turkeys. For this reason it is never safe to allow turkeys and other poultry to use the same yards. The occurrence of the disease in wild birds, such as quail, grouse, and in several varieties of sparrows, adds to the varied possibilities for infection. Regarding the last of these, it cannot be doubted that the common English sparrow has played an important role in the dissemination of blackhead throughout the country, and is probably still an important means of bearing the disease from one locality to another.

As a general thing, the poultryman will do better to study methods of protection than to waste his money on so-called "remedies" and "cures" on his birds. Treatment should be, in the main, limited to such birds as are of special value, and the poultryman should devote his attention to securing conditions which are calculated to prevent the disease in his flocks as a whole.

Regarding such preventive measures the following, though simple, may be recommended: (1) Isolate the sick birds and flocks which may have the good fortune to be uninfected with blackhead by a careful examination of all geese, or other domestic birds. (2) Keep the turkeys on grounds which are as fresh as can be obtained. Change the range at least every year or two, and above all keep them isolated from fowl and other poultry. (3) Keep every turkey in the flock under frequent observation in order to separate, and at once isolate, any bird which gives evidence of the disease. (4) Facilitate such observations it is of the greatest help to band every bird, and to record its weight from time to time. This procedure may be difficult and impracticable. As a matter of fact it is neither, but can be done easily and in a short time. It may be appropriate to give to other denizens of the farm yard. The course outlined above makes it possible to learn whether any birds are losing weight, and if this is the case, these birds must be regarded with suspicion and isolated from the rest of the flock. It is especially dangerous to allow a turkey hen, showing this sign of disease, to brood her young, for it is known that blackhead is present in any of the eggs she lays, and should be kept as free as possible from English sparrows, and the poultry houses and grain bins from rats and mice, and it has been shown that these rodents carry the parasite. (5) If it is desired to fatten birds for market, begin to increase the ration gradually. Never attempt to fatten birds which are in poor condition, show a loss of weight, overfeeding does not cause blackhead, but it does frequently cause the sudden death of birds in which blackhead is present. (6) When birds have died of blackhead, their bodies should be promptly buried or buried in order to prevent the dissemination of the bacillus, either through the refuse or by means of flies, or by leaving the dead birds to decay about the premises.

Regarding therapeutic measures, the following may have some advantages if used early in acute cases of blackhead: (1) Isolate the sick bird from the flock, and place it in a dry, well-ventilated location, free from cold drafts. (2) Feed sparingly on soft, light, easily assimilable food with little grain, especially corn. (3) If it is desired to fatten birds for market, begin to increase the ration gradually. Never attempt to fatten birds which are in poor condition, show a loss of weight, overfeeding does not cause blackhead, but it does frequently cause the sudden death of birds in which blackhead is present. (6) When birds have died of blackhead, their bodies should be promptly buried or buried in order to prevent the dissemination of the bacillus, either through the refuse or by means of flies, or by leaving the dead birds to decay about the premises.

With regard to the barn, the needs are not fixed but vary widely. In certain forms of farming it may exist chiefly for storage, while in other cases it may serve mainly for housing the animals. Whatever its needs, it should look to the rear of the farm, and not that of a country school or church. It should be proportioned and fitted to meet the internal needs.

Since the barn and the house are the nuclei of the farm group, it is well at this point to consider briefly the arrangement of farm buildings. Certainly the part of architecture is established when the principal buildings are signed. Its relation to other buildings, existing and future, should be a concern. Usually there is an absence of any logical relationship between the different buildings of the farm. They have been dropped down here and there, as it were, the house here, the barn there, and a shop in one place and a shed in another. Instead of all this there should be a careful grouping. There will be decided advantages in economy of construction, and in protection. The aesthetic possibilities will be much greater and from the very nature of things, the unattractive features will be less likely to be noticed and will be much easier of concealment.

LOOK OUT FOR SEED CORN

E. R. Hoigson, associate agronomist, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Experiment Station, has this to say about the selecting of and caring for seed corn.

While shucking time is not the best time to select seed corn it is next to the best, I believe, and am prepared to cite authority, that the best time is when the corn is standing in the field, for then one can pick his corn from a certain height from the ground, which characteristic he wishes to maintain through subsequent generations; but this time and opportunity which we speak of as best has passed for this year, and I wish now to call attention to the next best method.

Select corn as you shuck it by throwing the best corn in a pile to itself; this corn which you have set aside should be about ten times the quantity you will need for seed, for it will fool you when you examine it closer at the seeding time. This seed corn apparently will cure poorly and some of the indifferent ears will cure well.

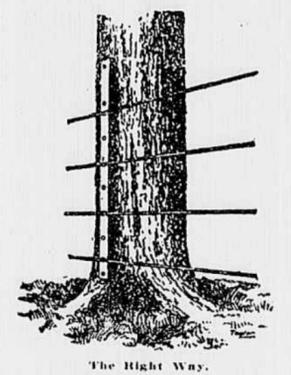
Now how are we going to care for this seed corn in order to germinate a high percentage next spring? Are we going to throw it in a pile in one corner of the corn crib or barn, and above all keep them isolated from fowl and other poultry? (3) Keep every turkey in the flock under frequent observation in order to separate, and at once isolate, any bird which gives evidence of the disease. (4) Facilitate such observations it is of the greatest help to band every bird, and to record its weight from time to time. This procedure may be difficult and impracticable. As a matter of fact it is neither, but can be done easily and in a short time. It may be appropriate to give to other denizens of the farm yard. The course outlined above makes it possible to learn whether any birds are losing weight, and if this is the case, these birds must be regarded with suspicion and isolated from the rest of the flock. It is especially dangerous to allow a turkey hen, showing this sign of disease, to brood her young, for it is known that blackhead is present in any of the eggs she lays, and should be kept as free as possible from English sparrows, and the poultry houses and grain bins from rats and mice, and it has been shown that these rodents carry the parasite. (5) If it is desired to fatten birds for market, begin to increase the ration gradually. Never attempt to fatten birds which are in poor condition, show a loss of weight, overfeeding does not cause blackhead, but it does frequently cause the sudden death of birds in which blackhead is present. (6) When birds have died of blackhead, their bodies should be promptly buried or buried in order to prevent the dissemination of the bacillus, either through the refuse or by means of flies, or by leaving the dead birds to decay about the premises.

Can Plow Earlier. Drained land can be plowed earlier in the spring than undrained land. Crops can be cultivated sooner after a rain, and if covered the rains are used instead of open ditches, machinery can be used to better advantage, and the cost of cultivation decreased.

For the Farmer's Wife. Never throw away any pieces of lemon after they have been squeezed with the lemon squeezer, for they come in handy for removing stains from the hands and elsewhere. Dipped into salt they will remove copper kettles and scour stains from brass work. Lemon used like this will take away dirt and odor from pans and kettles as nothing else will. The odors of fish and onions can thus be easily removed.

PROTECTING THE TREES

In attaching fence wires or woven wire fencing to trees, nail a strip of wood from one to two inches thick to the tree. Then fasten your wire with staples to the strip of wood and not to the bark of the tree itself. If the wires are fastened directly to the bark of the tree the tree will grow over the wires and over the wound and seriously mar the tree and shorten its life. Trees make good fence posts. I know.



The Right Way.

No cheaper fence posts than those secured by planting a row of poplar trees eight to ten feet apart, or closer, along the line where you want a fence. In a short space of time, says a writer in Farmer's Guide, you will have a line of fence posts and a beautiful wind-break at small expense. These live trees will last for more than a lifetime of the owner and in many respects are superior to the ordinary fence posts and cheaper.

Virginia Corn-Growers' Convention. The Virginia Corn-Growers' Association will hold its annual show and convention in Staunton January 19 and 20, 1916. Membership in the association costs \$1 to join and 50 cents dues each year, or \$5 purchases a life membership. The secretary of the association at Blacksburg will be glad to furnish any one with application blanks for membership and a pamphlet of the rules and regulations, as well as booklet on selecting seed corn. The object of this association is to establish improved breeds and types of corn, to promote the growing of pure-bred corn, furnish a means by which valuable native varieties of corn may be recognized and preserved, to protect farmers who wish to purchase pure-bred feed corn and to further in any way the corn-growing interests of the State.

Farm Crops This Year. The nation's principal farm crops this year are worth about \$5,500,000,000, exceeding by more than \$500,000,000 their value in 1914, the previous bumper year in the country's crop history, according to statistics announced by the Department of Agriculture.

RECEIPTS OF WHEAT SHOW FALLING OFF

After Close of Navigation Grain is Expected to Accumulate Rapidly. Outward Movement Small. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] CHICAGO, November 21.—Receipts of wheat at Minneapolis and Duluth jointly last week were only 8,113 cars, compared with 10,826 cars the previous week, and 5,911 cars for the corresponding period a year ago. This falling off in the Northwestern receipts was caused partly by the fact that farmers have been taken storage tickets for the wheat brought to country elevators, and the outward movement was smaller in consequence. In some sections of the spring-wheat country the grain are inadequate.

One of the best-posted men of the spring-wheat country, who was in Chicago yesterday, said that after the close of navigation his care will be to generally expected that the movement of wheat will be seen in the cash wheat and flour demand will show at least a part let-up, and that there are now signs that the buying power has fallen off.

It is well known that Chicago cash grain handlers have bought largely of cash wheat, not only at Minneapolis, but at other points, and that this demand has been pretty well satisfied during the time being. Little new business is being worked.

The movement of wheat from the Northwestern markets to Chicago will give the carriers all they care to handle for some time to come, and the wheat that has been purchased in the Northwest and intended for shipment from interior points, and that has been accumulated in the Northwest, and the only outlet for this grain is for shipment abroad. Bids from interior points on this grade of grain are 25 cent off line.

It is again expected that Great Britain owns a large part of the Canadian visible supply of wheat, as well as a large chunk of the invisible. This is believed because of the less persistent buying agents supposed to represent England and the allied nations, and while the Liverpool market has ruled high, the bulk of the wheat that was so pronounced a fortnight ago is not now in evidence.

There is a doubt in the minds of the bears in corn whether the bulls in that grain will be enabled to hold up the price around the present level. The bears say that there is a lack of demand for the cash article, that many millions of bushels of this is of poor quality and will have to be sold at a very low price and will prove a weight to the good grain.

There is a big open interest in May corn at Chicago, and some of the best speculators are on the long side of the market with heavy holdings.

There is no scarcity of oats in North America, as farmers' bins and country elevators are well filled. The big crop of Canada is still intact, and it must be recognized that a more disposition to recover on a bullish forecast of the Census Bureau's glowing report to be issued this week.

The trade appears to be looking for a report around \$300,000 later, and when reports are expected to influence prices early in the week, and after that the trade is expected to study closely the interior spot situation. The market took heavy orders and sellers in the spot department con-

LOSSES ARE MARKED AND ACTIVITY DECREASES

There is Further Abatement on Part of Public in Speculative Demand for Specialties. NEW YORK, November 21.—Losses in quoted values and a pronounced diminution of activity were the features of the week's stock market, which was ruled largely by the operations of the speculative element. Further abatement of public interest or investment demand was reflected in the heaviness of certain issues, especially that group of specialties which made the greatest gains during the mid-summer. Some of the war shares are now 25 to 50 points under their best, while Bethlehem Steel, at its minimum of 410, showed a decline of 160 from its maximum of recent weeks.

It is the common belief that the weak holdings in stocks of more or less weak character have been closed out, and to that degree the technical position of these stocks has been strengthened. Nevertheless, the attitude toward shares of this description denotes greater weariness, for which the conservative attitude of financial institutions is partly responsible.

Metal shares were the strongest features, with several new records with an enormous increase of domestic demand.

Petroleum stocks also figured to a considerable extent at marked gains, the result of all-round advances in prices of the raw and refined products, as well as the further stabilization of conditions in Mexico. Texas Company was foremost in this class, its rise to 206 representing a gain of 35 points for the week.

Conditions in the steel trade may be dismissed with the significant statement that every mill of importance is including finished products to the limit of capacity. Possibility of an embargo on steel and iron exports, in order that home requirements may not suffer, opens the way to interesting developments.

Railroads in all sections are carrying almost the largest tonnage in their history, and the problem of freight handling will become more acute when the crop movement reaches its flood. October statements of earnings are expected to exceed all records of recent years.

WEEKLY COTTON REVIEW

NEW ORLEANS, November 21.—The cotton market last week closed in a few points of the previous week's close, the net change being a net loss of 6 to 9 points. Prices were depressed by liquidation of longs, but a steady tone was acquired through extensive buying ascribed to foreign interests.

Frost over the belt generally made little impression. While they were accepted as indicating the growing season, they did not stimulate buying. Late in the week the market showed a disposition to recover on a bullish forecast of the Census Bureau's glowing report to be issued this week.

The trade appears to be looking for a report around \$300,000 later, and when reports are expected to influence prices early in the week, and after that the trade is expected to study closely the interior spot situation. The market took heavy orders and sellers in the spot department con-

tinues, and anything which will get the market out of its rut is expected to be quickly reflected in the cotton market.

In some quarters it is believed trading would be light in the near future because of the nearness of the crop estimate by the Department of Agriculture. This estimate will be made on December 16, and it is believed that between now and February 15, the main evening up will take place.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR ATLANTIC FLEET

WASHINGTON, November 21.—The program of employment of the Atlantic fleet for the period from January to April 30, 1916, has been announced. The program may be prescribed in strategic or other problems, and proceeding designated rendezvous, the battleship squadron to hold day spotting practice off Cuba.

From January 31 to March 6, the four divisions will engage in day individual and torpedo defense work at Guantanamo. From March 7 to April 19, the fleet will have target and torpedo practice based on Guantanamo; the destroyers in reserve will have target practice based on Key West, proceeding to the miring Guantánamo from February 15, and the destroyers will engage in mine and minesweeping exercises based on Guantanamo, Guantánamo.

Beginning March 6 and for three weeks, the fleet will be assembled, based on Guantanamo, and engage in tactical problems, small arms, athletics and conference. From March 26 to April 19, the four divisions will engage in target practice and torpedo battle practice at Guantanamo, on the conclusion of which they will proceed to their home yards for docking, the period of which is from April 15 to 30.

The destroyers, active and reserve, will engage in torpedo battle practice from March 28 to April 19, and then proceed North cruising. In the period from March 28 to April 30 the miring ships will have their exercises, based on Guantanamo from January 31 until April 19, and then proceed to Hampton roads. The cruisers will be continued on police and patrol duty, joining in fleet operations and holding target practice as opportunity presents.

Pay 1915 State Taxes Now Don't Delay

Real estate, personal property and other taxes, including all annexed territory. South Richmond, including annexed territory, pay the Deputy Treasurer as heretofore, at the Old Hull Street.

Five per cent will be added to all unpaid bills December 1. Pay now or add to the total amount to be paid on your taxes. They are not the same as last year.

Taxpayers and their representatives will save time and trouble by paying over phone impossible at this time.

J. B. PACE, Treasurer.

FINANCIAL

"Ask Mr. Bowman" Before making reservations or purchasing R. R. or S. S. tickets ELSEWHERE.

He is Ticket and Tourist Agent for C. & O. Ry., Old Dom. S. S. Co., M. & M. T. Co., and all Atlantic and Pacific S. S. Lines.

He can probably save you money. He furnishes TRAVEL WITHOUT trouble to all Parts of the World. Hotel and Free Information Bureau. Phone Randolph 457. No trouble to give information.

STEAMBOATS. FRENCH LINE Compagnie Generale Transatlantique. Sailing NEW YORK to BORDEAUX From New York, Nov. 27, 3 P. M. ROCHAMBEAU, Dec. 3, 3 P. M. LAFAYETTE, Dec. 11, 3 P. M. ESPAGNE, Dec. 18, 3 P. M.

OLD DOMINION LINE Lv. Richmond, Va. for New York, daily, 7:00 P. M. Arrive New York, daily, 8:00 A. M. Connections with main line steamers leaving New York for New York daily, except Sun. day, 7:00 P. M. Connections also made by N. Y. Ry. Co. at N. Y. City. Call for information. Night line steamers stop at 4 P. M. at signal, and are met by public conveyance. Arrive New York at 10:00 A. M. Leave New York by daylight for Norfolk, Old Point, Newport and other ports. Arrive Norfolk, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 A. M. Return received for all James River points.

HOTELS. TURKISH AND ROMAN BATHS. THE JEFFERSON

SERIOUS DISEASE OF TURKEYS

The blackhead disease which almost annihilated the turkey-raising industry in New England, has spread to nearly every State in the Union, Virginia included. It is not very general in this State as yet, but is spreading entirely too rapidly.

It was formerly believed that blackhead occurred only in the turkey. Continued observation soon made it clear, however, that other fowls also might have the disease, and it is now a well-established fact that practically all domestic poultry are susceptible, and although they are much more resistant than turkeys, they frequently die of blackhead. The same organism has been found in great numbers in quails, pheasants, quail, grouse, pigeons, and sparrows. But the chief danger from this general occurrence of the disease in a mild form lies in the fact that where there is a large number of birds on the grounds are necessarily contaminated

Do Some Planning Now. During the winter months is a good time to plan your work for the coming year. In fact, the plans should consider more than one year. Call in the boys and make a diagram of the farm, showing the location of the buildings, the proposition and decide what shall be planted in each field for the next three or four years. Of course, you will find it necessary to change your plans now and then, but it is infinitely better to have a plan than to go along in a haphazard manner, scarcely knowing what you will do the following day.

A tremendous amount of time is wasted every year by farmers who do not decide to do a thing until it is too late to do the work at the time when it can most profitably and economically be done. They decide in the spring that they will put a piece of sod ground into corn, and spend twice as much time and labor in preparing a seed bed as would have been necessary had they known the preceding fall that the field was to be planted in corn. Too often the farmer finds himself and team so busy in the spring that it is impossible to give the spring work the extra work necessary, and, consequently, the corn is planted in poorly prepared seed-bed, and the yield is correspondingly decreased.

Boys and Girls Clubs. There has been an increase of more than 41,000 in the membership of various boys' and girls' agricultural clubs conducted by the State Agricultural Department, the Department of Agriculture, in the Northern and Western States. At the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, there were 119,977 members in the various club projects in the thirty-three States covered by this work. At the close of the present fiscal year, June 30, 1915, the membership was 151,191, exclusive of the enrollment in the mother-daughter canning clubs.

WE BEG TO ADVISE THAT SUBSCRIPTIONS, SUBJECT TO ALLOTMENT, FOR THE COMMON STOCK OF THE

Saxon Motor Company

will be received by us at the issue price of 75. "when, as, and if issued."

An initial payment of \$5.00 per share, for each share applied for, must accompany all subscriptions.

The authorized and issued capitalization of the new company will be \$6,000,000. There will be no Bonds and no Preferred Stock.

No subscriptions will be received before 12 noon Monday, November 22. The books will remain open until 12 noon Wednesday, November 24, unless closed prior to that time.

Merrill, Lynch & Co. Seven Wall Street New York Penobscot Building Detroit

Sometimes After you have industriously tried to save and have walked home you can't see that you are ahead of the fellow who spent his nickel to ride.

First National Bank Ninth and Main. Capital and Surplus, \$3,000,000.

FRESH EGGS Right from the nest—Aren't they great? And you can get almost any price you want for all you have to sell. Make your hens pay! Give them

Pratts Poultry Regulator That is the way to get fresh eggs now and all winter long. It keeps the layers well and in the pink of condition the year round.