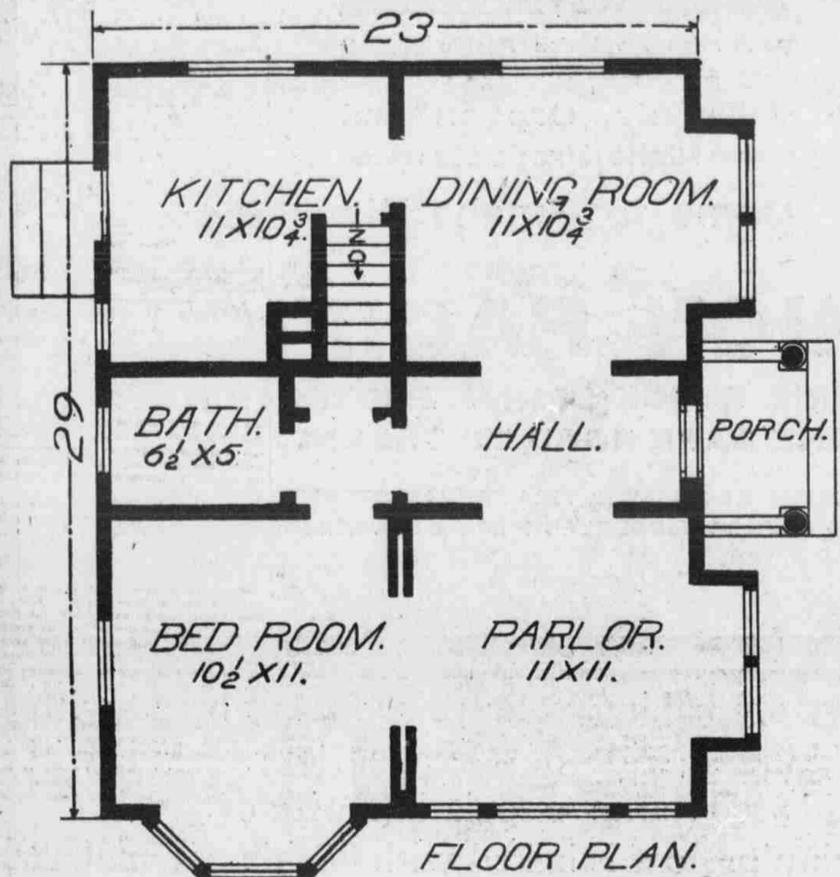


NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS



A VERY COZY COTTAGE—NO ESTIMATE OF COST GIVEN—PLANS BY ERNEST CLAUSSEN, ARCHITECT, MINNEAPOLIS.



Just a Word About Concrete Blocks

Arthur C. Clausen, Architect.

It has only been a few years since we commenced to consider seriously the construction of houses and buildings out of various forms of concrete. The first experiments along this line were far from successful, but owing largely to ignorance on the part of workmen in the uses of cement and partly to the insane desire to build imitation stone houses at the price of a frame one, with the consequent reduction in the quantity of cement used, and the labor put upon the construction of the building. These "get-rich-quick" contractors who first jumped at the chance of promoting this "fad," as it was then supposed to be, did the concrete block business so much harm that it took honest men, producing a worthy product year after year to overcome the stigma of suspicion which has, leechlike, fastened itself to the concrete business. The concrete block business is going through the same experience that terra-cotta went through some years ago. The early manufacturers tried to get rich by making terra-cotta imitation stone. They failed, and so they then tried to cheapen the material, tried making plaster and plaster and various other methods. The result was that it took honest manufacturers many years to establish confidence with architects and laymen in the true building value of the product when properly made, but today we are proud to erect terra-cotta buildings that are put up with no idea of imitating stone ones.

This ought to be a lesson to concrete block manufacturers in at least one respect. No matter how hard and honestly they try, they cannot imitate a stone house with concrete blocks. No one with any judgment has ever admitted for an instant that concrete from the mould bore any resemblance to rock-faced rock work. If properly made, however, there is not the slightest doubt about the equivalent of strength. We must, therefore, acknowledge the limitations imposed upon us and evolve a style adapted to concrete block constructions, building honest, concrete block houses in the same spirit that we build brick houses and not attempt imitation "stone" (?) ones. Concrete products are as different from stone in appearance as bricks, and no matter what shape or mould the blocks are made in, they are not a true imitation of stone. No manufactured material ever looks quite like an original material from mother earth. Cut

THE BEE'S PLAN OFFER

Through a special arrangement with Mr. Clausen, The Omaha Bee is able to offer its readers the complete plans, details and specifications of the home illustrated on this page without charge for \$10. Mr. Clausen is the author of a well illustrated book, "Home Building Plans and Problems," containing besides many designs for modern homes and extensive articles on home building, over 130 designs for entrances, fireplaces, pictureque groups of windows, stairways, kitchen and bath arrangements, etc. Special price to readers of The Bee, 39 cents. Send all orders to Arthur C. Clausen, architect, Studio, 1912 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minn.

glass is a high art, yet the most adept at it have never been able to imitate a diamond. This fact does not, however, detract from the beauty or worth of a finely cut glass dish.

It is not the intention of the writer to attempt to evolve at this time the style adapted to concrete block construction. This style, the same as all others, must be born of long experience with the article by many men. In the writer's opinion, however, the best looking house that can be obtained of the blocks on the market is one made of six-inch by twenty-four in smooth faced blocks with paneled-attenuated corner blocks or quoins at a smooth block foundation. There should be a beveled water table, ten or twelve inches high and the foundation blocks would look best if larger than those above. The quoins or corner blocks could be twelve inches by twenty-four inches, with good effect. These will bond with the six-inch blocks. I would advise making all the cornices and columns of wood for the present, as there is no machine that will turn out columns in their correct proportions on the market. The diameter of a column at the top should be five-sixths of the diameter at the base for instance, a column stone wall looks very picturesque if one story high or built up in the form of a chimney, but looks very monotonous if carried over an entire wall surface. So it is with the concrete blocks as we have them at present. It is best to use them only up the first story and then if a second story is to be provided, for either shingle or side it up. I have stated that there is no doubt as to the strength of concrete blocks. I refer to well made blocks only, for unfortunately there are a few unprincipled contractors still left in the business who have no scruples about giving a man an inferior article provided they can make a sale, through having an overbid on the work than a competitor. There is much dispute as to the proper proportions and materials for concrete blocks.

Concrete blocks made in the proportions of one part cement to four parts sand and gravel are good blocks if properly cured. More than five parts of sand should not be used. Some manufacturers use as high as ten parts sand, but have no right to do so and sell their blocks as reliable building material. Most city ordinances place the limit at five parts sand and insist on using Portland cement only. There are five important conditions on which depend the successful manufacture of concrete blocks; viz: The materials, the mixing, the quantity of water used, the curing and the curing. The manufacture of blocks will not be gone into in detail, but stress is laid on the necessity of proper curing. It takes twenty-five tons of pounding pressure to properly condense concrete blocks. The more water that can be used when mixing the better. The water which is put on them while curing does little good, except to prevent from drying too fast and becoming lined with map-cracks; the chemical action of the cement takes place immediately after the first water is applied and the more that is used at the start the better are the results. As in bread baking, enough water must be used to bring about the chemical action of the yeast.

Blocks are made for eight, nine, ten and twelve inch walls and are six, eight, ten and twelve inches high by sixteen. They are made in red, brown, buff and other colors.

Utopian Era of Health.

At the reopening of a medical school in London recently, Sir John Brocas, in an address to the students, said that he looked forward "to some Utopian era when such diseases as influenza, pneumonia, measles, scarlet fever and the like will become more or less extinct as a result of proper ventilation of offices, shops, public buildings and private houses, and other sanitary measures, such as the avoidance of overcrowding, the abolition of children's parties and the habit of indiscriminate kissing." "The last should not be a hardship," Sir John added. "If we accept the school-boy's definition of a kiss: 'It is just putting your mouth to a person's cheek and drawing in your breath so as to make a little noise, which is not bad, but it does nothing in the way of helping you to love the person.'"—New York Tribune.

Slow, but Deadly.

"Have you anything that will kill cockroaches?" asked the near-sighted customer. "Yes," said the salesman. "We've got something that's sure death on cockroaches, but it acts kind o' slow. It'll take you a long time to clear a house of 'em if you don't use anything else."

Here he placed a number of samples of assorted sizes of the "slow" poison.

"What are these?" she asked.

"Hammers, ma'am."

"Gracious! I don't want any hammers. I have plenty of them at home. Anyhow, if I wanted hammers I wouldn't come to a drug store for them."

"This isn't a drug store, ma'am."

"What is it?"

"It's a hardware store."

"Oh!"—Chicago Tribune.

A Bad Slip.

"I wonder how that man got the black eye and broken nose?"

"He slipped while making a coupling."

"Why, he looks more like a preacher than a railroad man."

"He is a preacher; he tried to kiss the bride after a recent wedding at which he officiated and the groom, a pugilist, didn't like it."—Houston Post.

Compelled to Sell MUST HAVE ROOM

Large importations of China compels us to reduce our big stock of blankets and comforters. The room and counter space is needed for the China. Starting on Monday morning we make prices which would astonish in February, let alone in November.

If, therefore, you have any interest in these things—either for present or hereafter, make careful note of the prices quoted.

- Crib Blankets, in white, pair... 29c Feltonne make, 34x50, pair... 69c
- 12-4 white cotton blankets, sold at \$1.50, for... \$1.00
- 12-4 heavy twill white and gray, sold at \$1.75, for... \$1.19
- Beacon Blankets cut to sell in a hurry:
 - Heavy gray and tan, double blankets, usually \$2.00, for... \$1.59
 - Best quality 11-4, gray or white, usually \$3.00, for... \$2.19
 - 11-4 white wool, sold up to \$3.75, Monday at... \$2.39
 - 11-4 white wool, fine quality, previously \$5.00, to close, pair... \$3.98
 - 11-4 California white, regularly \$8.00, for... \$5.98
 - Heavy gray wool, staple at \$3.50, for... \$2.98
 - Large size, soft wool, grey, regular \$5.00, on Monday... \$3.98
 - All wool, western made, sold at \$7.50, for, pair... \$5.75
 - The regular \$5.00 plaid blankets, on Monday, pair... \$3.98
 - An especially fine lot, formerly \$9.00, on Monday, pair... \$7.90

4 REMARKABLE COMFORTER VALUES

- No. 1—Pure cotton filled, full sized, \$2.50 grade, at... \$1.69
- No. 2—"Maish" pure laminated, usually \$3.50, Monday... \$2.50
- No. 3—Several numbers of wool filled—some silk borders—at... \$3.98
- No. 4—Down filled, priced lower than ever before, each... \$5.00

We will sell a new Sheet at 50c each—by way of introduction. Ask to see this sheet, it is a hummer for the price.

Amoskeag Gingham at 5c a yard should add to the interest. Cotton Dress Goods—look like wool—usually 25c; Monday at... 12 1/2c

OUR CORSET DEPARTMENT

We direct special attention to our corset department. Have provided additional fitting rooms to care for our rapidly growing business. There is much to learn about corsets this season. There is a nicety of adjustments—not needful before. Fitting is one thing, creating is another. It is up to the corset to build the base from which the figure is made. We have thought for you—our corsets combine the necessary essentials. Our fitters are trained in corsetry—courteous experts, qualified to serve you well. Models are all in stock and the range of prices is great. May we expect a call?

Notes About Building Matters

That election is over, and over satisfactorily, can be seen at a glance from the sudden activity in building.

Plans for new homes are everywhere in the air. Architects are busy. Builders are giving up their loins for a rush. Real estate men report the consumption of many deals.

Contracts were let for an unusual number of new homes during the latter half of the week. Men who had been talking for a number of weeks about building, but who had let it go with talk, have suddenly come to the offering point.

"A man had been discussing plans with us for some time," said one contractor, who specializes in residence work, "and finally last week announced that if Taft was elected he would put us to work. I thought he was bluffing. But Thursday morning he appeared and gave us definite instructions to go ahead with the plans. He made good." And that about represents conditions all through the local building industry.

Do it in the fall. If you're to add a veranda to the house, if you are going to build an addition, if you want to add another story, if you're planning any of the improvements that require the services of a contractor, don't put it off till spring. Fall is the best time to get the closest, personal attention from the builder. The clear, cool days of an Omaha fall make work move along more quickly, and then in the spring your place is ready for the first nice out-of-door days. Work undertaken in the spring of the year, because of greater pressure on the contractor's

time, bad weather, scarcity of labor, is more likely to drag itself on into the summer, at least through some of the best of the spring days. The above is the opinion of one Omaha contractor. The home owner who is contemplating any such work might do well to ponder over it.

Josephine G. Hamlin will put up a \$6,000 brick residence in the Redick addition. The contract has been let to J. J. Toms and work will be begun at once.

A \$2,500 frame house is to be built in Ferrin Place by Johnson Bros. for Alphaids Nelson.

J. J. Bixby & Son have just completed the installation of a most elaborate and complete plumbing system in Dr. Miller's new residence, Thirty-first and Dodge streets, the cost of the system running up to \$1,000.

William Petersen & Sons this week signed up contracts for the erection of two frame houses at Twenty-sixth and Woolworth for Fred Petersen and R. G. Roberts. The cost will be about \$2,500 each.

J. J. Toms has taken out a permit for a new \$2,500 frame house in Kountze Place.

Two big plums dropped into the lap of C. W. Partridge this week. They were the contracts for the Loose-Wiles factory plant at Twelfth and Davenport—a five-story brick structure, 6x12 feet—and the International Harvester company addition. The latter will be a six-story building adjoining

ing their present location, and will more than double the floor space available.

W. Ashton of Salt Lake City has let the contract for a story and a half-frame house to be built at Twenty-eighth avenue and Grant to cost \$2,000.

Work is to be begun next week on a \$3,000 residence for P. Petersen in Collier Place.

A handsome one-story cottage is to be erected at Thirty-second and Martha by William Petersen & Sons, for H. H. Dupin, at a cost of \$3,000.

R. Jullen is to build an elegant \$5,000 residence in the Moore & Bruner addition, and work will probably be started at once.

The Chicago & Great Western is contemplating the construction of an eight-story warehouse on its vacant property in Marcy street. Work would not be commenced before next spring and when undertaken will prove one of the biggest operations next year.

John Carlson has the contract for a frame dwelling, to cost \$2,600, to be built in Lincoln Boulevard for Charles Klejva.

J. B. Conte will erect a brick and frame residence to cost \$3,500, in the West End addition.

Real Thing in Pumpkins.

Yankees think they know all about pumpkins because they invented the pumpkin pie, but to see the real thing as a commercial article you must come to the Hoosier state," writes a commercial traveler from Indiana. He speaks of a packing concern in Indianapolis where pumpkins are at present of great importance. They are received in large quantities there from all parts of the state for shipment to the markets

and for canning, and forty car loads a day are not an extraordinary quantity. You can't quite realize what car load of pumpkins is until you reduce it to pie, and one is struck with awe when informed that forty car loads will make about 2,000,000 pies, the drummer. "A car load, they tell me, weighs about twenty-five tons. Of course that would be too much for our day's baking, so the pumpkins are canned, and each ton fills 550 cans, and three regulation sized pies can be made out of the contents of one can. I saw a 40-car consignment that had been dumped into the packing concern's yard—about 2,000,000 pies, as it were—and when a man who stood back deep among the yellow giants said, 'Quite some pumpkins, I echoed, 'quite some!' "—New York Tribune.

Didn't Know His Capacity.

"The late Ira D. Sankey," said a veteran Pittsburgh editor, "once dined with me in Philadelphia. During the dinner he looked about the restaurant, where every table was covered with glasses of white or red wine, and he said: 'There is a man drinking a whole bottle of a full-sized champagne at the same time. It is amazing what a capacity for liquor some men possess. And the man with a large capacity is actually proud of it. Could anything be more foolish, more sinful?' "Then, when the check came, Sankey told me about a beggar he had once helped. 'The beggar had a red nose, and Mr. Sankey gave him 20 cents, saying at the same time: 'Mind you, now, don't get drunk on this.' "The beggar laughed. 'Why, boss, he said, proudly, 'it'd take the best part of a dollar to get me drunk.' "

Our Own Minstrels.

Tambo—Mistah Walkah, kin yo' tell me de difference 'twen a wait an' an apartment house? "Interlocutor—I give it up, Jerry. What is de difference between a wait an' an apartment house? "Tambo—De one an' a homeless kid an' de other a kidless home. Interlocutor—Ladies and gentlemen, Prof. Howlan Higginson, de renowned tenor, will now sing his great topical song, 'I Love Him, Mamma; He Looks Like Fido.' "—Chicago Tribune.

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