



# **A convenient farm home. Bulletin no. 55**

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# WISCONSIN BANKERS' FARM BULLETIN

## A Convenient Farm Home

By

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### "LIVABLENESS" IS MOST ESSENTIAL.

A farm house should be convenient, comfortable, and attractive. It can be all these and economic as well.

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## A Convenient Farm Home

The city builder does not go to the farm for suggestions when building his house. Why should the farmer, then, take the city planned house and expect it to meet the requirements of country conditions? A farm house first of all should fulfill the peculiar needs of its users, whose mode of living is so widely different from that of people who live in the city.

When building a new home for the farm the first questions that come up are naturally, "How large shall it be?" and "How much shall it cost?" But these are influenced by such considerations as the suitability of the building materials, the location of the residence, its appearance, yet not one of these is of so great importance as the convenience of its interior arrangement; for after all, it is the livability of a house that affords the final test of its value.

### SOME REQUIREMENTS FOR CONVENIENCE

Among the things that should be considered when building a farm home the following are some of the chief:

Arrangement of all the rooms so that one can easily be reached from any other.

The kitchen planned to lighten labor; so situated as to afford plenty of light and ventilation; and with easy passage from it to other parts of the house.

A well equipped laundry, preferably on the first floor.

A way for the men to reach the dining room when coming in for meals, without going through the kitchen.

A toilet on the first floor, and a place for the men to wash.

A bedroom on the first floor.

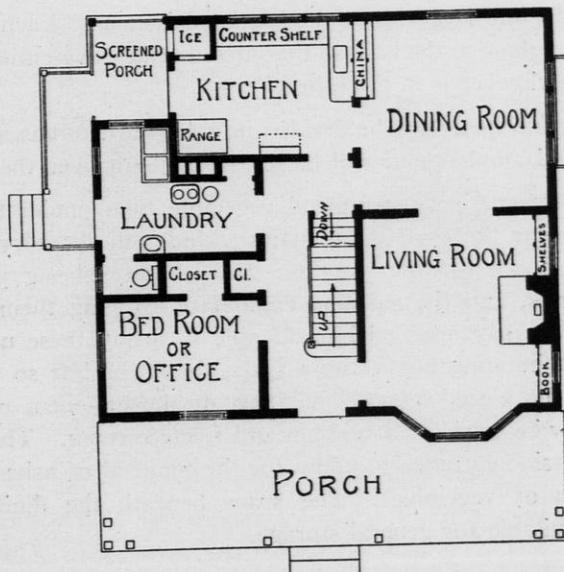
Bed rooms and bath on the second floor each of which can be reached from the hall.

Means provided for the hired man to go upstairs to his room without passing through the living rooms.

Basement with places for furnace, fuel, vegetables and fruit, pressure tank, lighting plant, etc. (It is easier to make provision for these things when building than to remodel later on.)

### A HOUSE PLANNED FOR CONVENIENCE

In the house, the first floor plan of which is shown herewith, one way of working out these ideas can be seen. The kitchen is practically a corner room, having an outside exposure on one side, and a screened porch at one end, so that it has good light and ventilation. Along the wall under the windows is a counter with cupboards beneath and at the end of this counter is an ice box which may be



filled from the outside. Just beside the dining room door is the sink, with a drain board at either end, and over the sink is a cupboard with doors opening into both kitchen and dining room. Between the dining room door and the range a drop shelf is placed, with narrow shelves above it for salt, spices, etc.

Before going further, let it be noted that the kitchen is convenient to the bed room if there is sickness in the house; convenient to the laundry when washing and cooking are necessary at the same time; convenient, also, to the stairways, to the living rooms, and the front door.

When the children of the family are small, the location of the laundry on the first floor becomes almost a necessity. At any time such a plan eliminates much unnecessary climbing of stairs. The laundry of this house is provided with two stationary tubs, a small stove for heating water, and a range boiler. A cleaning closet for brooms, dusters and the like occupies the recess beside the chimney. A hand-bowl is in the laundry, so that when the men come in from work they can clean up before going in to their meals, without entering the kitchen at all; or in the evening the hired man can come in this way, pass through the hall and go upstairs to his room without inconveniencing the family.

Between the dining room and the living room a double door provides the obvious advantage of allowing these two rooms to be thrown into one large space on special occasions. Each of these rooms has a door to the hall, so that anyone can leave either without disturbing whoever is in the other.

The second floor may be divided into four bed rooms, each with a closet, and ample room will be left for a bath over the laundry.

The basement has a fruit and vegetable room under the living room and near the foot of the stairs. Under the laundry and bed room is a space for the utilities; that is, the lighting plant, the pressure tank, and the gasoline engine for running them. While every farmer may not feel himself able to install these utilities at the time of building his house, a space should be left so that they may easily be placed later. That part of the basement under the kitchen may be used for a fuel bin and furnace room. This should have an outside entrance to allow for the removal of ashes and the bringing in of vegetables. The space beneath the dining room would be suitable for general storage.

### **THINK BEFORE BUILDING**

Many of the farm houses throughout the country are anything but convenient. This is due largely to the lack of forethought when planning the house or to the use of plans made for conditions entirely different from those of the farm. To meet the requirements of farm life the house must have the thought of the farmer himself, and those familiar with farm conditions. When the farm house receives this attention there will result a convenient home that will relieve the housewife of much of her labor and add greatly to the happiness of the family.