A WYOMING HOMESTEADER'S CABIN: BY PAUL R. MAHAFFEY

On the prairies of southeastern Wyoming one finds architecture reduced to its simplest terms. Most of the homesteaders' dwellings can hardly claim the title of "houses"; they are merely shacks. And it was one of these shacks that I had the good fortune to secure when I left my home in Pennsylvania and came in search of health to take up a government homestead claim near Chugwater, Wyoming.

The cabin had been occupied by a homesteader who had already "proved up" on his claim and had returned to the East. The building was 10 feet by 12 feet, with a shed roof, 5½ feet high on one side and 7½ feet high on the other. The walls were built of 12-inch pine boards, placed vertically, the joints being covered with batten strips. The roof was of shingles. There was a door and one double-hung single-light window, which reached almost from the floor to the ceiling.

The inside of the shack was lathed and plastered, the plaster being off in a few places, and I knew that to move it from the original location to my claim—a distance of three-fourths of a mile—would shake off the rest of the plaster. Besides, the flat roof was not satisfactory, for when inside the shack one always felt as though the roof were going to come in contact with one's head. So I decided to raze the cabin and rebuild, using the same material and what little additional material might be required.

For the foundation of my new home I chose four cedar posts taken from our firewood—which we haul eighteen miles from Goshen Hole. I filled in the spaces between these posts with field stone. The boards for the sides were put on as before, vertically, and the joints covered with batten strips. The windows were made of the two sashes of the double-hung window, in which I inserted hand-made muntins and small panes—an expedient which I adopted partly because the glass in the old windows was broken and the small lights were cheaper than large ones, but chiefly because I knew that this arrangement would add a touch of decorative detail to the house and give a cozy effect becoming to a dwelling of that size and type.

The long roof on the right hand is the roof of the old building raised to one-third pitch, thus giving ample headroom inside and still keeping a low sloping effect. For the short roof on the opposite side new material was of course required. For the interior, instead of using lath and plaster as before, I laid a durable brick-red building paper between the boards and the stud-
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ding, leaving the studding and rafters exposed on the inside. This made it sufficiently warm and at the same time gave a rustic effect which would harmonize with the general character of the little shack.

The chimney is to be of field stone, which abounds on the lower part of my claim, and the little pergola, with one side closed as shown in the sketch, is to be built chiefly as a windbreak and partly to give a friendly effect to the entrance.

The cost of a cabin of this sort is naturally very low, and in my case it was merely nominal, for I secured the shack from a personal friend who did not charge me anything for it, and I spent only about $3 on extra materials. The original cost of materials was about $42, and I suppose the value of the labor would be approximately $35, making a total cost of $80.

HORSE BREEDING TO INCREASE THE FARM INCOME

UNDER this title The New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University has issued a bulletin in its farm reading-course, and the subject seems to have been handled in such a practical way that we are mentioning it here for the benefit of those of our farm friends who may be interested. In addition to a number of illustrations and a tabulation of the different breeds (according to type, height, weight, uses, origin, registration, etc.) the pamphlet contains a discussion of the number of horses purchased in New York State, the places where they are reared, the cost and profit of raising a horse, the conditions favorable to horse breeding, the plan of cooperative breeding, procuring of stallions, stallion laws, uniformity of type and soundness.

Referring to the breed and type, the following advice is given: "Choose the breed that best suits the conditions, the markets and the tastes of the breeders. There is no best breed or type for all conditions. The lighter types naturally belong on land devoted to grass, to dairy industry, to fruit growing and to market gardening, where but little plowing and other heavy work is required and the necessity of reaching the market, the station or the creamery requires quick-moving horses.

"On grain farms, where there is much plowing and other heavy work to be done, heavy horses are needed. On general-pur-

pose farms the draft horse finds his true place. Draft horses can be reared with less risk than the lighter and more active types. They can be put to light work much younger and do not require so much training. Coachers, saddlers, and roadsters require a large amount of training before they can be marketed, if good values are to be obtained. This training requires skill, time and money, which should be taken into account. A well-bred and well-trained coach team will bring a good price, but the amount of skill, time and money required to breed and train such horses is too great for the general farmer.

"Furthermore, draft horses are in great demand in New York State for city traffic. They are the least to be affected by a business depression and the first to recover; they are the least affected by automobiles, motor cars and the like; they are not affected by fads, fancies or fashions, and always command a remunerative price. From this it would seem to be of advantage to the general farmer to produce horses weighing upward of 1,200 pounds, as the heavier they are, the greater the profit in their production."

One need hardly add that the bulletin in question will prove of value to all farmers interested in horse breeding who care to send to the college for it. And the fact that the papers in this course cost only a cent's postage apiece brings their helpfulness within reach of all.

A useful feature of these lessons is the "discussion paper," containing questions and spaces for answers. The questions which supplement the horse-breeding lesson are worth quoting here, for they give some idea of the practical way in which the subject is treated. "1. To what breed or class of stallions do you have access in your vicinity? 2. Which breed seems to be preferred by the farmers? Why? 3. Do the farmers in your vicinity raise the horses used on their farms, or do they buy occasionally? 4. How much money do you estimate is expended in your township for horses raised elsewhere? 5. Why cannot the farmers get together and raise the horses used in the State, and thus save the money that goes to the Western farmer in exchange for his horses? 6. Do you believe the 'farmers' cooperative plan' (not the company plan) herein suggested could be made to work in your vicinity? If not, why?"