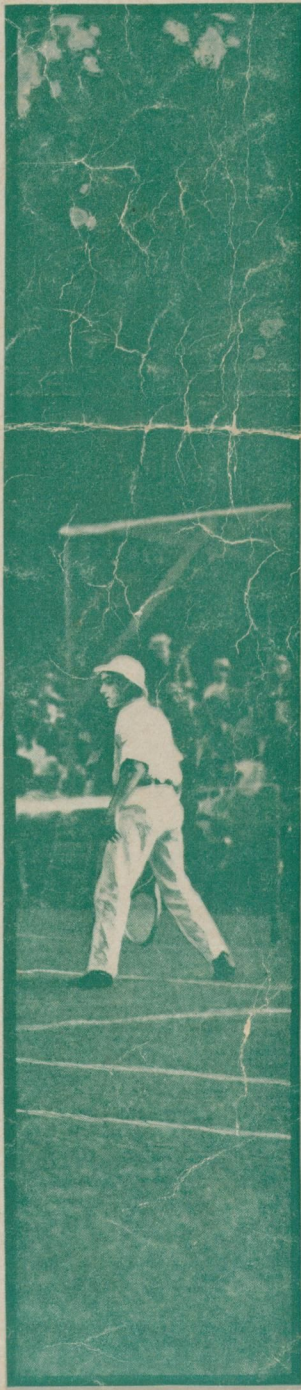
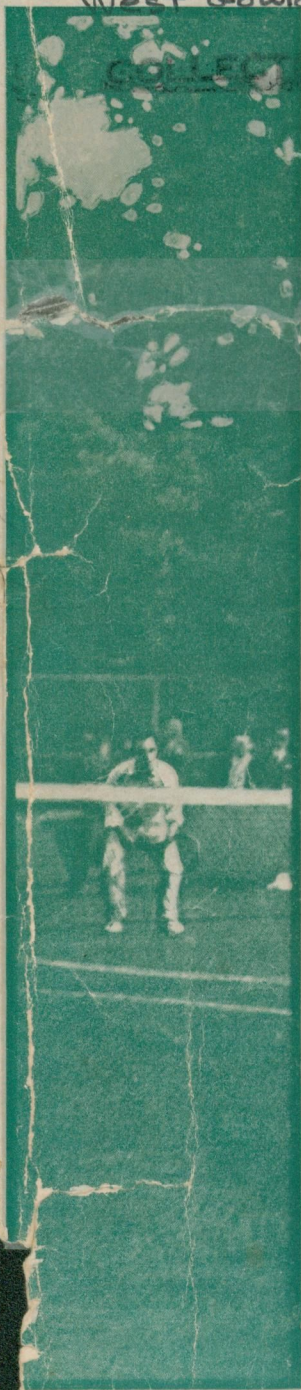


Country Life in America

367

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NEW YORK, N.







A summer-house built of native stone. "Its rugged character was in perfect harmony with its surroundings"

A SUMMER HOME FOR \$1,500

HOW MY FRIEND ELLIS BUILT HIS LODGE ON THE MAINE COAST

By C. E. H.

Illustrated from photographs and from diagrams by the owner of the house

MY friend Ellis was at one time in the office of a well-known architect, but gave up the profession on account of his health and went into photography, at which he has been very successful. He is a natural genius. He once made a scimitar from an old scythe, shaping it on a blacksmith's anvil. An old bit of buck-horn he found in the woods served for a handle. He stained it in blood, left it in the wet earth for several nights, with acid applications, and then submitted it to an old sea-captain, who told him how it had been used by the people of the East. This is Ellis.

When he returned from his first trip abroad, he had decided to build a small summer cottage, and, having married a Maine girl, he naturally selected for a site one of those delightful spots on the eastern coast. His wife's folks lived near, which was fortunate, inasmuch as all summer property needs occasional looking after when not actually occupied.

Ellis wanted, as we all do, high ground and a view; and his selection, to my mind, is one of those rare combinations of good sense and good luck so seldom realized. This is what he chose after due deliberation: A plot four hundred by three hundred feet, fronting on the town road and only six hundred feet from a beautiful bay; and a second plot across the road two hundred feet in width, running six hundred feet to the bay. (See map.)

The upper plot is crowning in contour, its highest

point being near the center, and consists of a large ledge. The northerly half is thickly wooded with spruce, fir and hackmatack, while the southerly half, owing to numerous ledges, is covered with a scattering similar growth, including pines. Among the ledges in the scant soil was creeping juniper in abundance. The lower plot running to the bay is free from trees, except for a fringe of pines and beeches skirting the shore, and about half-way between the roadway and the beach is a beautifully clear spring.

To the eastward from the upper plot, and about three hundred feet from the rear line is a fresh-water lake some three miles long. It is Ellis' intention to purchase this intervening strip of pasture-land, with its scattered growth; and thus his land, about twelve hundred feet in length, will have one foot in the fresh water and the other in the ocean. The crowning ledge is about eighty-five feet above the sea and fifty feet above the lake.

Of course, the ledge was the site selected for the house, it being the highest point and more open to the view. The grove to the north would shelter it from the wind, while its distance from the thick wood allowed a free circulation of air about it, which is essential at times to keep away insects.

Before leaving the land to draw the plans, Ellis studied the actual site of the house with care. The view toward the west suggested sunsets—a double reason for placing the living-room on that side. Open space toward

the south suggested toward the east the most natural approach.

The locality was a rough field stone foundation was and cheap; and in perfect harmony with the surroundings.

That winter in mind; and which embody every have a certain been thought of two in a separate wanted.

The plan e



by twenty feet, old English sea the back of it cases were arranged low the top sh

The kitchen two bed-rooms each. Provision tension at some ing, the proposition owner termed

The following laid out and a sternation of death of such the view, and g farmer had said

When it be of field stone, t The "summer butt of joke a wonder.

The first ta This was not c

the south suggested sun in the living-room, and open place toward the east that the sleeping rooms be toward that most natural alarm clock.

The locality also provided material. In this instance rough field stone was the only thing; first, because the foundation was of rock; second, the material was handy and cheap; and third, its rugged character when laid was in perfect harmony with its surroundings.

That winter Ellis drew his plans with these things in mind; and while they are extremely simple and do not embody everything one can think of, they nevertheless have a certain completeness. A studio and a workshop had been thought of, but it was deemed best to combine these two in a separate building at some future time, when wanted.

The plan evolved consisted of a living-room fourteen



The front of the lodge

by twenty feet, having a liberal fireplace at one end and an old English seat at the other, with a full-width window at the back of it overlooking the bay and the sunset. Book-cases were arranged at either side, sufficiently low to allow the top shelf to be used for bric-a-brac.

The kitchen to the rear was ten by eleven feet, and the two bed-rooms at the side of that were eight by ten feet each. Provision was also made in view of a possible extension at some future time (see plan). Properly speaking, the proposed structure was not a house, but, as the owner termed it, a lodge.

The following spring the ground for the house was laid out and a few necessary trees felled, much to the consternation of the "local talent." They prophesied the death of such trees in front as had been trimmed up for the view, and gave sage advice based on what this or that farmer had said.

When it became known that Ellis was to build a house of field stone, their wonder and merriment were unbounded. The "summer complaint," as they called him, became the butt of joke and jest, and the "stone pile" a nine-days' wonder.

The first task was to find a mason to lay the stone. This was not difficult in a country where the "stone wall"



"It was not difficult to find a good mason in a country where the 'stone wall' is a drug in the market"

is a drug in the market. Ellis discovered a mason whose only previous stone job had been on a little library of cut granite in an adjoining town; but he was a wonder. In five minutes after Ellis stated his wishes the mason had thrown together a sample wall of the rough stone at hand; and Ellis, with the added caution that he wished the wall to be laid in pure cement with sunk joints, and especially that stones for the faces were to be selected with a view to retaining the mosses and all natural growth, gave him the plans for estimate. The contract was given out on May thirty-first; the wall was started on the seventh of June and completed on the twenty-eighth. Ellis did not see it until it was finished, and it was a first-class job.

On some old farm the mason had discovered an old



"Ellis wanted, as we all do, high ground and a view"

pile of stone, which, according to the best authorities, had lain untouched for eighty years. This is a sample of what constituted the facing of that wall, which was built twenty inches thick.

With the starting of the carpenter-work, the owner was continually on the ground, either helping in the regular routine or drawing full-size details on the stock to be shaped. The carpenter was hired by the day. There were four men at the start—the boss and three helpers. Shortly after the work was started the boss was taken sick, then two helpers left for haying, and the balance of the job was carried out by the one left and the owner.

The first floors were of spruce, laid on two-by-ten-inch floor timbers, and about two feet above rock. Small openings, six by three inches, had been left in the wall under the floor for vents, and these had been covered with three-eighths-inch mesh copper-net, built into the walls, to keep out squirrels and rats. The furring studs were two by three inches, the ceiling beam four by six inches, and the rafters two by eight inches,—all spruce. The ceiling was boarded over on the top side of the ceiling beams with matched spruce boards, laid planed-side down, and the roof was laid solid with rough spruce boarding.

The first shock the carpenter got was when Ellis insisted on leaving the spruce ceiling-beams rough. It hurt his feelings to think that he could not plane everything down smooth and sandpaper the life out of it afterwards. The second was when the owner refused to allow him to spend several days' time in jig-sawing the ends of the false rafters, which job was done in one day in a simple four-cut pattern. The numerous shocks that followed fell on the head of the lone

carpenter, who gradually came to acknowledge that some of the schemes were "real pootty."

After the laths had been laid, and prior to plastering and laying the upper floor, which was to be of Georgia pine, Ellis decided to stain the ceilings, with the exception of the plastered kitchen, in silver-gray. The lone carpenter received this announcement in silence, but pricked up his ears and watched. Ellis procured a half pound of insect powder, five cents' worth of indigo-root and a quart of molasses,

and emptied this concoction into a barrel of water. This is not the exact formula, but he did use some similar, and, apparently, foolish mixture, the secret of which belongs exclusively to Ellis. It is to the point, however, that the total output was only forty cents and covered three ceilings and the roof.

The lone carpenter watched the proceedings, and finally asked the owner what color he was trying to get.

"Silver-gray," replied Ellis.

"Oh!" said the carpenter. He took an extra hitch in his suspenders and resumed the planing of a "finish-board."

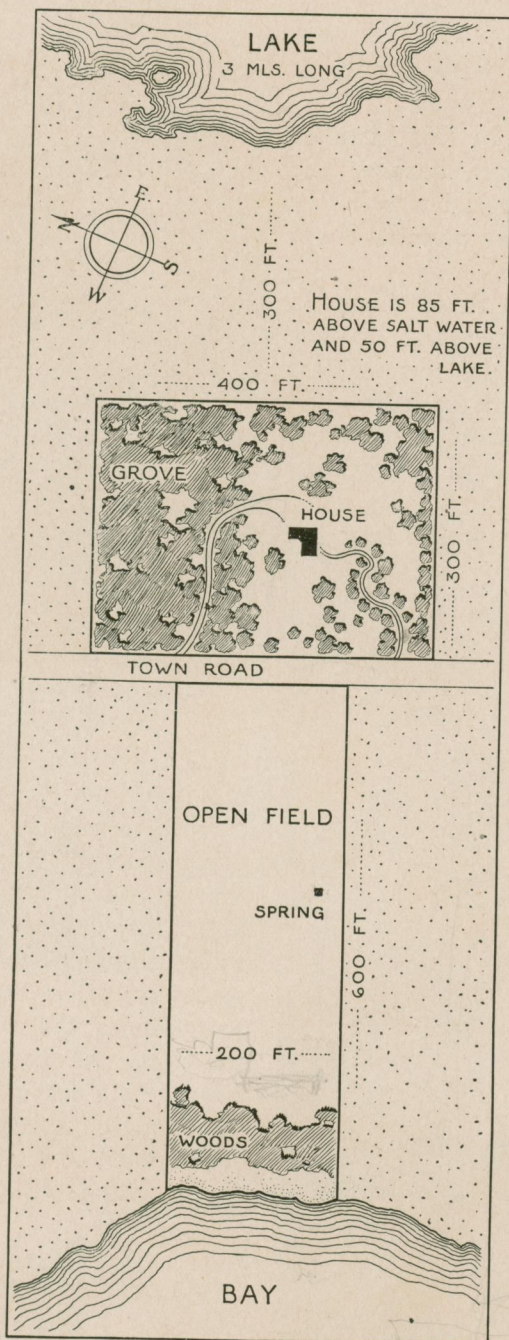
That night the carpenter evidently told the village folks, for the following day they came up to see about it. They strolled in, singly and in couples, boys and men, all bent on seeing the fun and "jolly the summer complaint."

It certainly looked as if Ellis had made a mess of it. A dirty, streaky, spotty ochre was smeared all over the ceiling in hideous unevenness. What failed to reach the ceiling was spattered all over the wall and floors; and what missed these three, found Ellis. During the night the smudge dried out a bit, and by about ten the next morning it had assumed a beautiful, even-toned silver-gray.

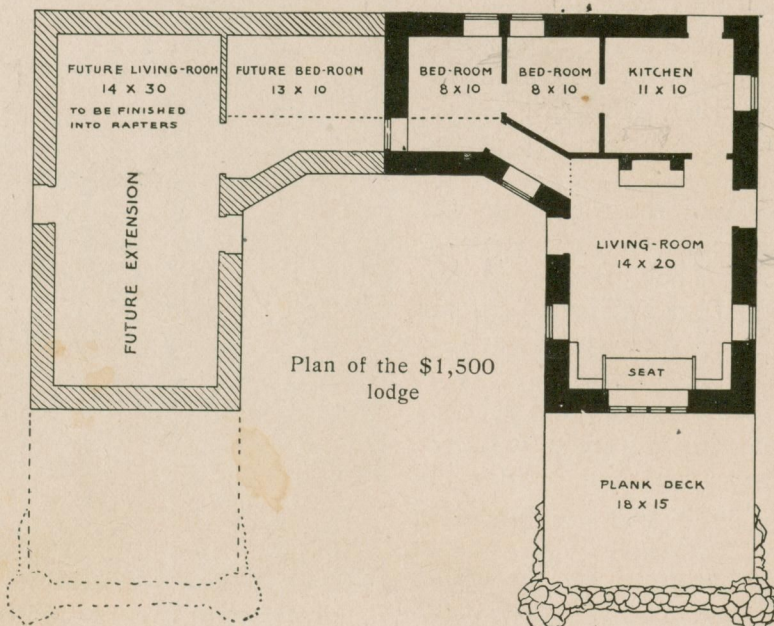
That day those of the village who had failed to "show up" the day before came, saw, and retired to the country store to give the lie to the rest of them. It was reported that seven fights occurred between small boys, and the third day all hands re-prove bets. The lone carpenter let the hitch out of his suspenders and went round the corner to kick himself, and from that time on they all entertained a greater, although not entire, respect for the "summer complaint" of the stone house.

The cedar shingles of the roof then received a like treatment, being stained darker gray, however; and all the while the lone carpenter kept close inside, said nothing, and sawed wood.

The chimney was built of burnt-hard brick, topped out with field stone in the manner of the wall. Owing to the cheapness of material and labor, as well as the size of the stone topping, the brick portion, or chimney proper, was built in the fol-



When Ellis secures the strip between the house and the lake his land will have one foot in the fresh water and the other in the ocean



lowing manner: tile flue linings, three courses of brick, four-inch air space and two courses of brick on the outside. This made an exceedingly safe chimney, as well as a good-sized foundation for the stone. Provisions were made for an ordinary coal cook-stove in the kitchen, and arches were turned for a fireplace in the living-room four feet and two inches wide.

The plastering in the living-room and the two bed-rooms was rough, without the final skim-coat. The kitchen was finished throughout, for painting.

The question of the fireplace was one of considerable importance. The first thought was stone; but that material requires more or less elbow-room in order to be effective, and the presence of doorways on either flank of the chimney-breast made that out of the question. Another objection to rough stone is that, owing to the coarseness of the surface, it is difficult to clean when sooted; any amount of rubbing only seeming to make matters worse, as the soot gets into the stone, and the mosses and lichens are destroyed. Brick, which at times

can be used so well, did not seem to appeal to Ellis, and he finally chose tile. The kind chosen was a rather coarse, glazed green tile, ten inches square, for the breast; and a smooth, unglazed red tile of the same make for the hearth. Light green terra-cotta consoles were used to sustain a whitewood shelf of a dark green tint.

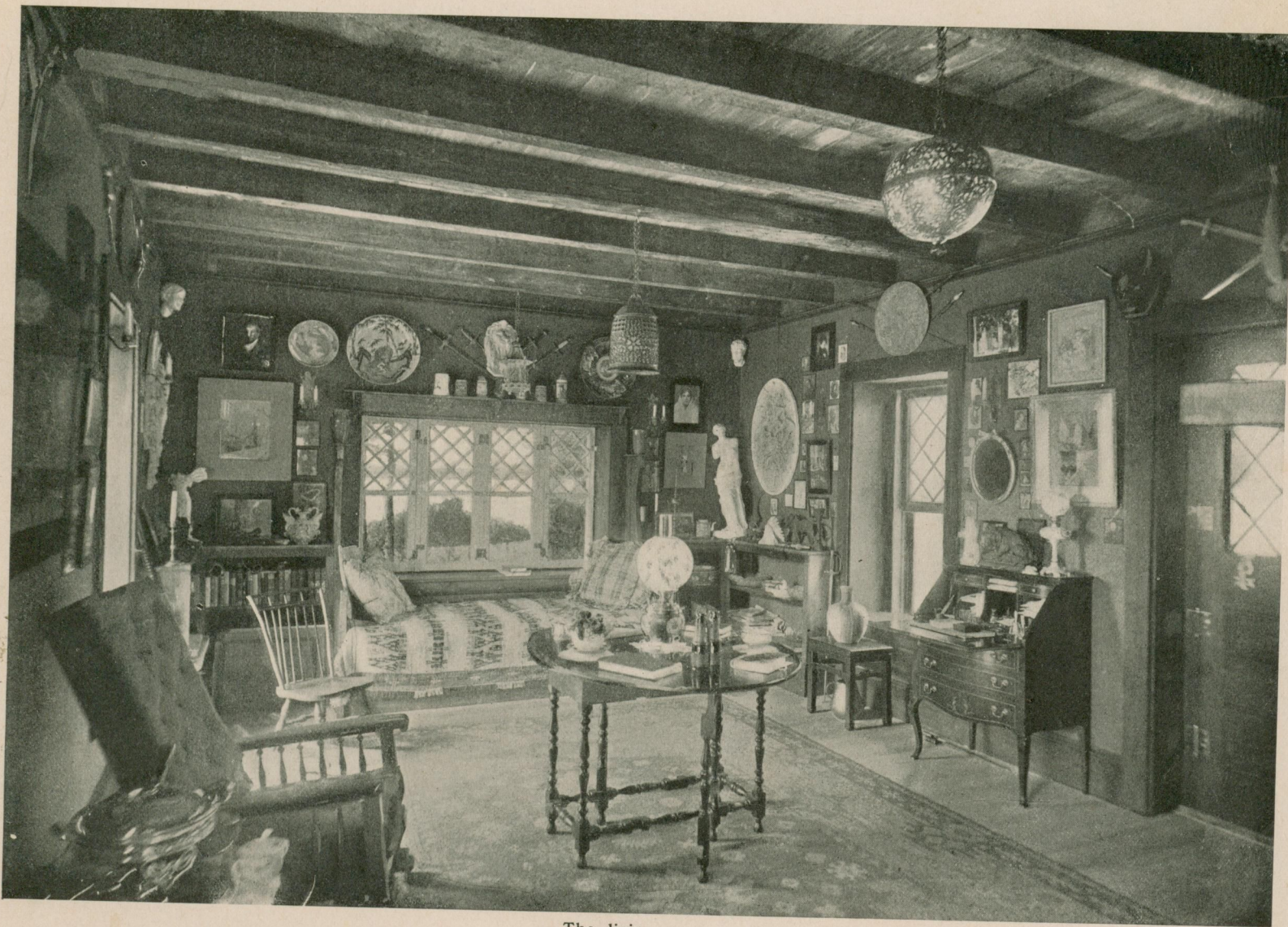
The standing finish was of white pine, and was planed out by hand on the ground from the roughly sawed boards. When planed, it was stacked outside, in pleasant weather,

to dry and season. It is a well-known fact that to disturb the surface of a piece of wood, no matter how thoroughly seasoned, is to cause fresh shrinkage. With the closer grained woods this may not be so noticeable, but I have seen a piece of old pine all of forty years old pull together considerably after being replaned and used for a new purpose. The architraves were gotten out plain, with square corner blocks, also plain. This treatment always makes a closer joint than the mitered corner.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 233)

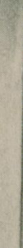


The fire-place

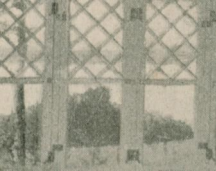


The living-room













the growers in this section, as the earliest known before were about the 20th of May. Few growers outside of those mentioned in the beginning had ever had blossoms before the 30th of May.

On May 22nd the door of the newspaper man's office opened and the market-gardener stuck his head in and asked: "Have your sweet peas bloomed yet?"

"When did yours bloom?" asked the newspaper man.

"To-day," said the market-gardener.

"Then you are twelve days too late this year," was the reply.

The market-gardener backed out and closed the door hastily.

By the last week in May the main crop of sweet peas were just showing buds, and the first beginning to bloom on the first day of June.

On the 4th of July the vines were a mass of blossoms. From that time on the only care in connection with the crop was keeping them picked fast enough to avoid the formation of seed-pods.

Decatur, Ill.

H. C. SCHAUB.

A SUMMER HOME FOR \$1500

(Continued from page 189)

The outside doors were of cypress and the inside of white pine. The door between the living-room and the kitchen was of the double-swing pattern. The large seat in the living-room was arranged with a box at the bottom, as well as a top which turned back, making a double bed. Numerous little shelves were scattered about the living-room in such nooks and corners as seemed advisable. When one gets to picking up odds and ends in the antique line these same small shelves come in handy.

The kitchen walls, when not otherwise occupied, were fitted with shelves and shallow cupboards, which took up little room and allowed for the storing away of considerable china and kitchen goods.

The upper floors were laid in matched Georgia pine, which is a hard pine with the sap extracted by process. This makes an excellent flooring if properly selected and laid.


The floors were stained a dark umber and the standing finish a bronze green. Both these stains were preposterous-looking compounds that Ellis concocted. This time the native marveled, but held his peace, and the lone carpenter looked wise and put on the hardware in silence. This hardware was a present from a friend and therefore cannot be included in the estimate, as it was of a high-grade Colonial pattern. Ordinary hardware would cost under \$25. Ellis liked the hinges so much that he insisted on having them put on flat, like strap hinges, much to the silent horror of the carpenter. The accepted and intended method is to hang the door with the hinge in the jamb, but this hid the brass, which Ellis wanted to count as trimming.

The rough plaster walls of the living-room and bedrooms had now to be hung with a dark-green burlap, which was done by Ellis, with the help of a village paperhanger, in something less than a day.

The carpenter in the meantime was at work on heavy batten shutters for the windows and doors, which were to be used in locking up the house securely at the close of the season. These were hung on solid strap hinges, bolted in place, and fastened on the inside with iron bars.

The plumbing problem had struck Ellis from the first, and investigation had confirmed his suspicion that the local talent was both high-priced and inefficient. So, during the previous winter, he had visited large plumbing-houses in the city, consulted catalogues, questioned his friends, and made himself more or less familiar with the tricks of the trade. As a result he bought a plumber's kit and had his pipes and connections sent down from the city in the spring. When the village folks discovered that he contemplated doing his own plumbing they set up another howl, but recollected themselves and watched the outcome with interest.

Ellis found a man in the village who had done some work as a plumber's assistant—a great hulking chap of perhaps 225 pounds. With his aid he made his connections by pipe from the spring, 400 feet below the house, using 1½-inch galvanized iron pipe. The water-tank was a 180-gallon Tarragona wine cask, stilted so as to be eight feet above water-taps. This was filled by hand-pump in about twenty minutes, and the top was covered with muslin to keep out insects.



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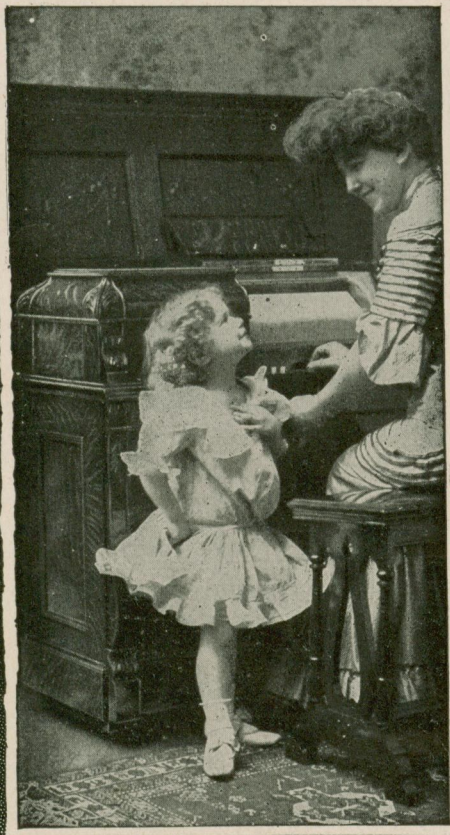
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Through the field and under the road the pipe was buried about two feet; but he was obliged to run it over the ledges from the road to the house. This will be disguised by a rough plank trough, about one foot wide, with no bottom, and filled with earth for a flower-bed. This, following as it does the line of the pathway, will look perfectly natural when filled with nasturtiums.

Ellis assures me that it is no joke for a man who weighs only 129 pounds to attempt to turn a thread in a two-inch waste-pipe. This and other little difficulties only added to the zest of the thing and in the end proved but the natural steps in a serviceable, if not an extremely fancy job. A small iron sink was set up in the kitchen, and the bedrooms had small corner enameled basins, with supply and waste, the waste-pipe running to a cesspool some distance below the spring.

This season Ellis intends to set up another wine cask by the side of the first, with a hip roof covering both of them, and to shingle the stilts. He also plans to build a well-house and attach a small hot-air engine to fill the casks.

Fixing up the place is a matter of very little labor and expense. A rockery exists in the wall built at the end of the deck—this will be filled with flowers. Whatever is done will be simple, big and vigorous. The sweep of the box flower-bed, the chunk of color in the deck at the front of the house and another small spot half way down the ledge to the north, decorate the knoll effectively. There are other ways, however, and Ellis is versatile.

The whole cost of the house, including land, did not quite reach \$1500.

Land	\$ 225.00
Stone work (by contract)	400.00
Carpenter work (by day)	120.00
Lumber	140.00
Windows and doors	79.00
Hard pine floors	32.00
Shingles	25.00
Shutters	18.00
Hardware (if of the ordinary kind)	25.00
Tiles	30.00
Bricks	24.00
Brick hauling	9.00
Labor in laying plaster, building chimney and laying tiles	30.00
Incidentals	300.00
	\$1457.00

The house was ready for occupancy on August 15th, and was voted a success by the villagers. It became another nine-day wonder, and Ellis tells me that when he left in the fall all the old farmers who contemplated building anything from a hen-house to a carriage shed were digging into their respective stone piles and sorting out suitable material.

C. E. H.

THE SCOTCH COLLIE

(Continued from page 193)

first conversation with a man, who had had actual experience from infancy. The chatting between us was carried on as the sheep were driven to the locality selected for the day's pasture. In the lead of the flock, with as much importance as might be displayed by any drum-major—but with far less concern, walked one of the two dogs. Following him, but never attempting to pass him, came the sheep, some four or five hundred in number, and behind these walked the shepherd, the second dog and myself. At the slightest indication of a break on either side of the procession, the rear dog, without instructions of any kind, would dart out and crowd back the misbehaving sheep into the flock—with entire silence and absence of roughness. As we proceeded down the road we came to a fork, and I could not for the life of me see how the dog in the lead was to determine the direction in which they should go. Turning to the shepherd, I said: "Now, how will that dog know which road you want the flock to take?"

He told me just to watch. He had no sooner said this than the dog, perceiving the fork in the road, quickened his pace and ran upon the little grass-plot that formed the beginning of the division of the highway. Reaching this spot, he faced the shepherd with a keenness not before manifested, and as he did so the shepherd waved his crook to the left; the dog immediately jumped into the left hand road, thus blocking the way, which forced the sheep to take the one to the right. A few days after this morning's experience I had the particular gratification of seeing this same leading dog, on a wager of time against any other dog in the county, pick out of a mixed flock of 411 sheep 172 of his own flock, winning the championship of the county. No less

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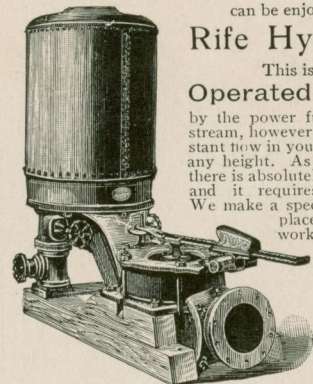
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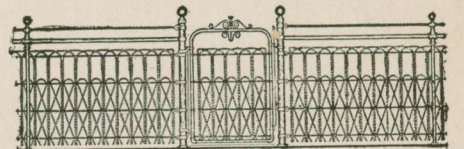
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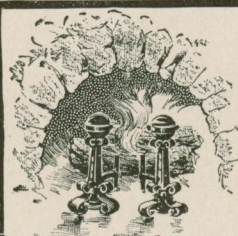
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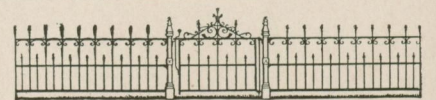


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