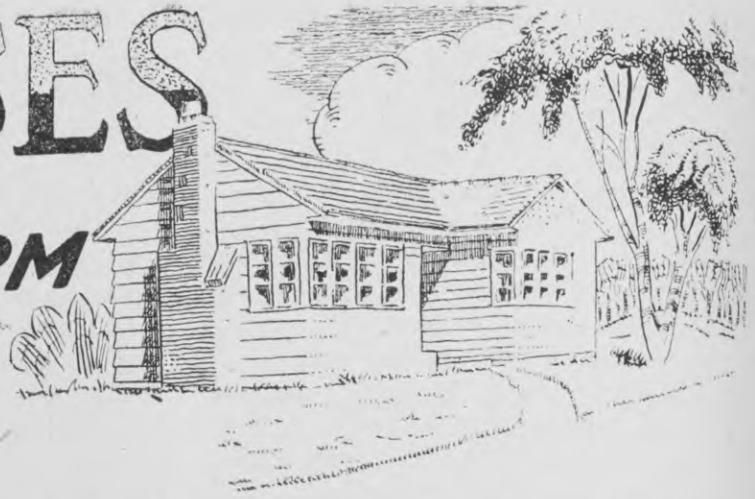


HOUSES

ON THE FARM

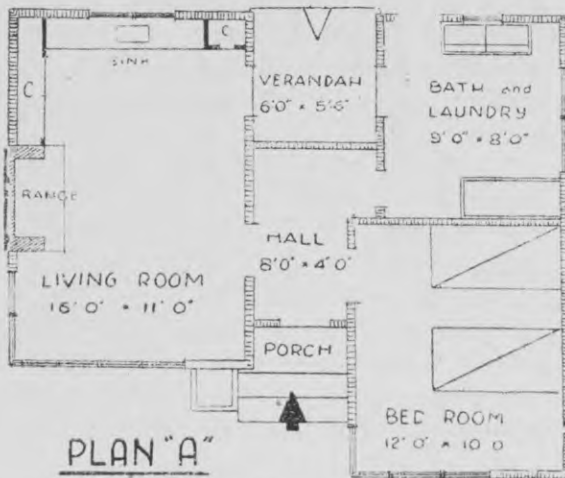


FARMHOUSE fashions in New Zealand have travelled far since the four walls and lean-to vogue of grandpapa's day. The new keynote, not surprising in an age when the tendency is in the direction of comfort and convenience rather than ornate spaciousness, is one of simplicity in design and economy in construction.

Although there is nothing to prevent the erection of houses according to approved independent plans, the field of choice offering under the provisions of the Rural Housing Act, 1939, is extremely comprehensive, with designs for some twenty houses ranging from the one-bedroom single man's quarters to a four bedroomed house. The ruling factor in every design has been economy, but an effort has been made to give all essential accommodation and to produce houses of reasonably

attractive appearance. (Sets of working drawings and specifications for each design can be obtained from County Councils at a fee of half-a-guinea.) It should be stressed that the designs are framed to meet the needs either of the farmer himself, or of employees working on the property.

While one of the main factors to be taken into consideration in choosing a site for a house on the farm is that of convenience—the position should be as handy to all facilities and plant, and near the road frontage as possible—there are many additional considerations to be taken into account. The ideal type of site is one on land which slopes gently down towards the north in order that a maximum of sunshine may be secured, while the provision of shelter belts to give protection from prevailing winds is also important. Care should be taken to avoid a damp site, and the need for a garden should not be overlooked, for which reason a site with a good soil is desirable—if possible, with shingle sub-soil or other good soakage to give adequate drainage. In selecting a plan for the house, too, it is advisable to do so with an eye to obtaining the morning sunshine in the bedrooms and the evening sunshine in the living room, at the same time ensuring that the porches have protection from any cold winds.



This house appears in the heading

The interior fittings of a home are important. In the Rural Housing Act plans there are many of the usual