

# THE AMERICAN HOME

W. A. RADFORD  
EDITOR

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 178 West Jackson boulevard, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

The first important work in building is the excavations for the foundation walls. All complete plans specify that trenches should be left with natural bottoms, level and smooth for the reception of walls, piers, etc.

Not long ago a workman in digging a trench for a center wall in a large city block misread the directions and got the excavation a foot deeper than the specifications called for. The contractor called the owner's attention to it, as an honest man should, and offered to build the wall from the bottom up if the owner would pay the bare cost of the extra material, but this the owner refused to do. The contractor thereupon dumped in loose earth, the only thing he could do, and brought the bottom up to the depth required by the specifications. The building was completed and accepted by the owner. After a lapse of six months the center wall settled to crack the plaster on every wall in the house clear to the third story.

It was a block of flats occupied by six families. Three of the families moved out because they thought the building was unsafe to live in. This led to a lawsuit between the owner and the contractor. The contractor was able to prove that he went to the owner and offered to fill in from the

bottom with masonry instead of dumping in earth. The court decided in favor of the contractor.

This incident is mentioned merely to call attention to the importance of showing a little common sense in the different parts of the building, from the foundation to the roof. It is not always best to stick hard and fast to every provision of the contract, especially when some accident arises that calls for the exercise of judgment. Of course a man does not want to be run over by anyone. Every one in business finds out early in life that he must stand up for his rights or have them taken away from him. The old Bible admonition which instructed every man to accept a whack on both cheeks will not work in this country as society is organized at present.

One thing the owner needs to have an eye on is the excavation for foundation and drains. The workmen are not interested in the little details the

## HAS GOOD CENSUS SYSTEM

Methods Employed by Austria Make the Work a Model for World Study.

The full returns of the census of Austria, taken in December, 1910, are expected to be published about May of the present year. The population of Vienna is already computed, the city numbering, on December 31 last, 2,004,291, civilians and 28,543 military, a total of 2,032,834. This is a gain over the census of 1900 of 355,427 civilians and a decrease of 79 mil-

itary. In 1890 the civilian inhabitants numbered 1,341,897. It is to be noted, however, that in 1904 the city included as the twenty-first Bezirk (ward) the district of Floridsdorf, 314. Deducting this figure from the total of 1900 it is evident that Vienna's rate of increase for the same area is considerably less for the decade 1900-1910 than for the decade 1890-1900. The military garrison here has remained about the same for the last ten years.

The method of taking the census in Austria is interesting. The great diversity of race and speech in this country and the influence of this diversity on political questions makes it important to have accurate statistics thereof. The census returns therefore include religion, race and usual language spoken in the family.

The information is collected in a practical way. Sheets calling for all details as to the buildings themselves, such as the ownership, rent paid, number of occupants, number of windows, exposure of same, etc., and all details as to the occupants therein and their relation to one another, were left at every house in the middle of December to be filled in.

Early in January, on a fixed day, these sheets were called for by a census reviser who certified the returns. This placed in the hands of the authorities complete and accurate returns with the minimum of labor to the collectors and the minimum of inconvenience to the inhabitants, excepting that, as the sheets pass from hand to hand, publicity is given to details which it might be wished to conceal.

The Japanese government detailed certain of its own civil employes to study Austrian methods of census enumeration. Teachers from the Austrian public schools were employed as census agents and the schools were closed for two days to permit their absence.

Had Seen Enough of Those. The trust magnate detained by a washout, sought the village news stand.

"What have you got to read here?" he inquired.

"Well," replied the proprietor, "we have the popular magazines and—"

"Give me one of the unpopular magazines, if you have any," interrupted the trust magnate, with a scowl.

Careful.

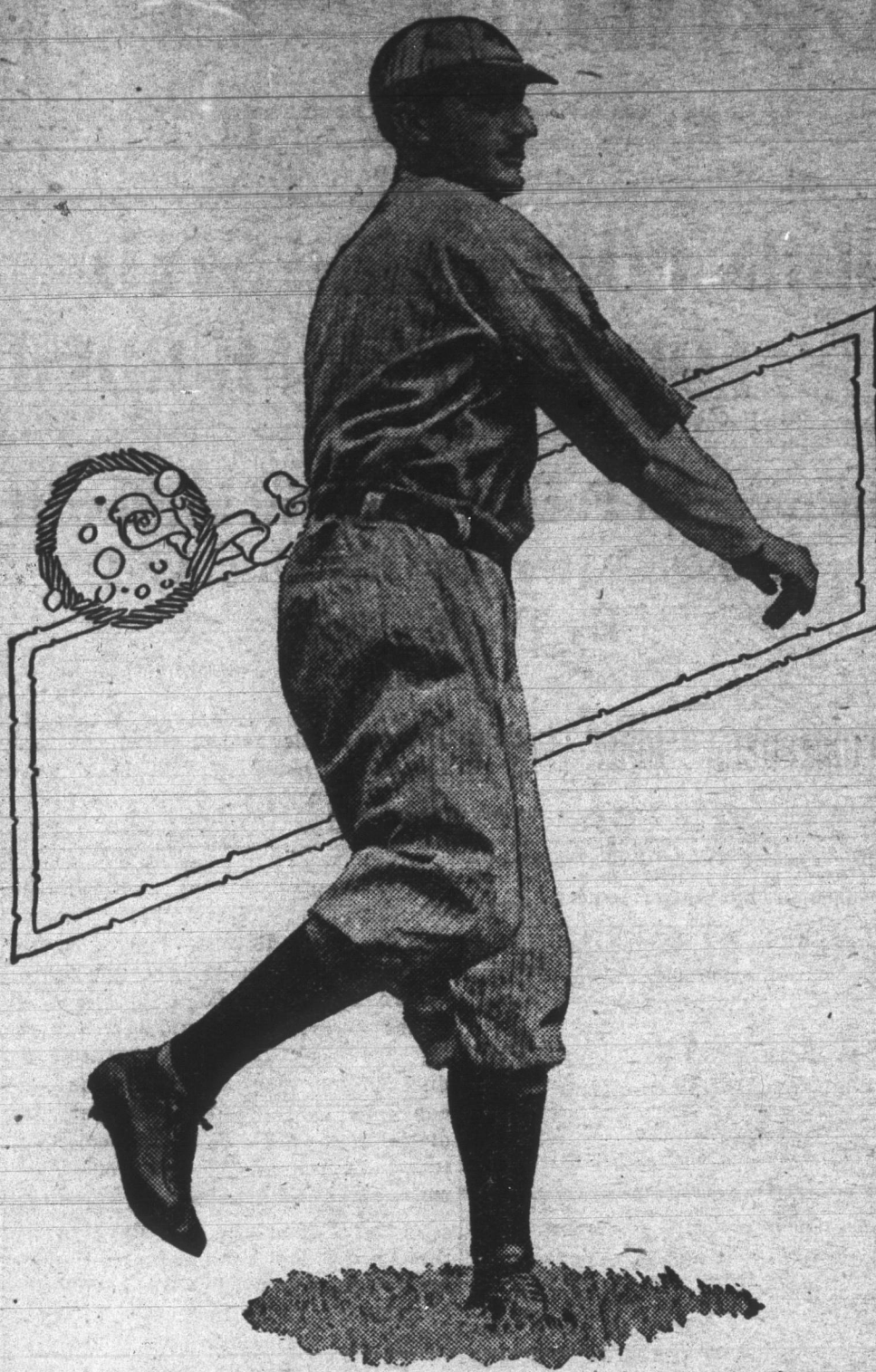
"If you are so afraid he won't propose to you again why did you refuse him the first time he proposed?"

"He was steering the auto we were in when he proposed."

"But what had that to do with it?"

"Everything. I accepted a proposal once while out in a canoe, and I was nearly drowned. I don't take any more chances."

## WALLACE O. K., SAYS PHRENOLOGIST



Manager Wallace of St. Louis Browns.

Dr. Simeon Squeers a phrenologist of Hot Springs, examined Bob Wallace's head recently. The brain specialist pronounced the manager of the Browns one of the most normal minded men he had ever examined. He did not know his man when he made his diagnosis.

Wallace's head is abnormally developed on the left side. This is as it should be, Dr. Squeers declares. The left lobe of the brain governs the right side of the body, the right lobe the left side. It is natural, asserted Dr. Squeers, that a man should be right-handed, right footed, right eyed, that the right side should be larger and stronger than the left. Left-handed people are, there-

fore, in many cases a bit abnormal.

This is especially noticeable in left-handed pitchers. Most of the "bugs," "nuts," etc., in baseball have been left-handed pitchers. Waddell is a lurid case in point. Tom Ramsey, the great left-hander of the early days, was also supremely erratic.

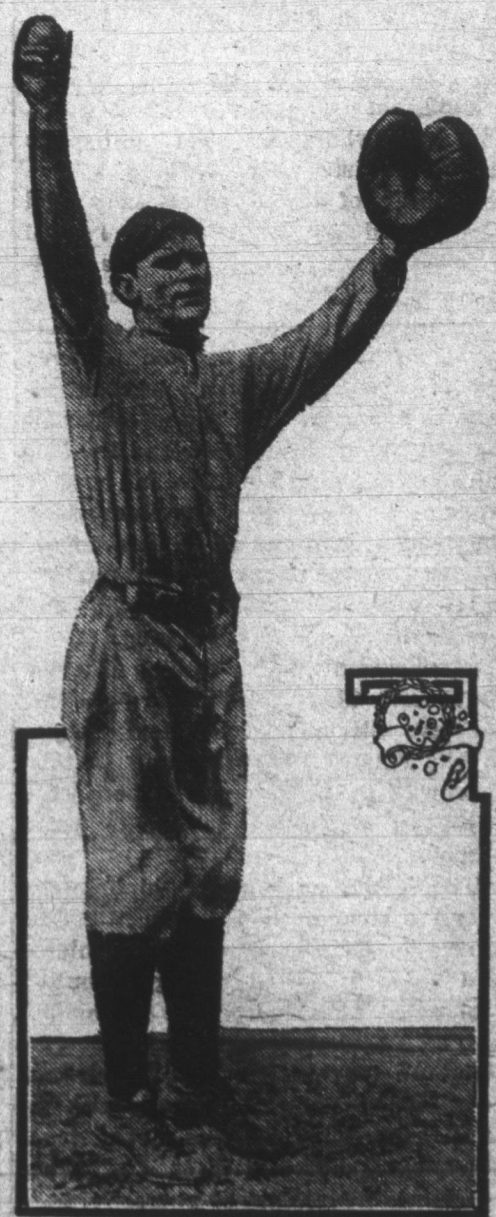
"Lady" Baldwin, Phil Knell, Bert Jones, Harry Sallee, "Crazy" Schmidt and Ick Altrock, all celebrated left-handers, have been more or less famed for erratic behavior. Even Theodore Breitenstein, one of the steadiest of the southpaws, was in his youth wild as a March hare. Eddie Plank and Doc White seem to be the wisest and steadiest of the leftside loopers.

## FOGEL NOW APPROVES DEAL

President Fogel of Philadelphia National League Team Finally Agrees With Manager Doolin.

That deal which came near disrupting the cabinet which holds the destinies of the Phillies is satisfactory now to all concerned.

Manager Doolin, who pulled off the deal without the sanction and without the approval of President Horace Fogel, and who threatened to resign



Manager Doolin.

unless it was permitted to stand, continues to congratulate himself. President Fogel has finally come around. He has made no positive or direct statement, however.

During a practice game with Birmingham President Baugh of Birmingham remarked to President Fogel:

"You people certainly got the better of that Cincinnati deal."

He was watching Ewing smoke them across, and Lobert running the bases.

"Yes, Yes."

This from Fogel. And he immediately changed the subject.

## LYNCH "DOPES OUT" SEASON

Head of National League Figures Six Clubs Have Even Chance to Win Championship.

President Thomas J. Lynch of the National league has figured out that the race for the pennant this year will be the closest and most keenly contested in many seasons. Here is his statement of the situation:

"Any one of six clubs has a good chance to win this year. Rarely have the teams presented a more even front. While St. Louis and Boston do not seem to be as strong as the other clubs, still, you never can tell what a crowd of young players will do, and Tenney may surprise the baseball world this season.

"As for the other six clubs, it is just about an even thing. New Yorks look good and are stronger than at this time last year. Those who think the days of the Chicago are over may have cause to change their opinion before the season closes. They are no weaker than last year, in my opinion. It was because the Athletics were so much faster than Chicago that the world's series resulted as it did.

"The team is well supplied with youngsters. Take the purchase of Shean; that was a good stroke of business. Evers may last a whole season and may not last a week. Mr. Murphy has a second baseman to step right in there. If that happens, you are likely to hear people begin to talk of Chicago luck and how fortunate it was that Shean was around. No luck about it; it was planned beforehand.

"A letter reached me the other day from the Pittsburgh camp saying that Leach, Clarke and Wagner, the big trio, were never in better condition, and that Adams and Camnitz were putting them over in great form. The men are playing together, and the old fighting spirit is there. I tell you that Chicago would not have had such an easy time winning a pennant last year had they not got the jump in the early months. It will be different this spring, unless all signs go wrong.

"Both Philadelphia and Cincinnati were strengthened by the trade made last fall. It does a player a lot of good to be shifted around. It puts more life in him, and many times a man who has played only average ball with a team gets in with a lot of hustling youngsters and becomes a star.

"The fans like to see new faces, too, and applause is as sweet to a player's



President Thomas Lynch.

ears as it is to an actor's. When a man steals second base and is heartily cheered, he wants to steal third right away. Both the Phillies and the Reds will be factors in the pennant race this year. Neither can Brooklyn be counted out. From all reports Mr. Ebberts has secured some youngsters who will give a good account of themselves this season.

## INSURE WHITE SOX PLAYERS

President Comiskey of Chicago Protects Himself Against Accidents and Illness.

President Comiskey of the White Sox is not taking any chances of injury to his star ball players.

Men like Ed Walsh, Harry Lord, Pat Dougherty, Jimmy Callahan, Matty McIntyre, Tex Jones, Bill Lange, Amby McConnell, Rolly Zelder, Billy Sullivan, Doc White and a few others who are main spokes in his baseball machine have been insured by the Old Roman against sickness or injury.

Ever since the injuries to Sullivan and Blackburne, Comiskey has been considering a plan to protect his baseball interests. A St. Louis insurance company entered the field much after the Lloyd fashion and took a chance. The insurance covers accidents, illness or death.

Every player who will be a member of the team has been insured. The policies call for \$5,000 in case of death by accident. In case the player is unable to play for a week owing to sickness President Comiskey will be paid \$25 a week.

Ministers Form Ball Club. A baseball team composed of clergymen is Grand Junction's (Colo.) latest acquisition. The nine is made up of pastors of various churches here and includes some former college stars. The ministers practice six days in the week—and have issued a challenge to any team in the state made up of members of one profession.

## SOME SMART SAYINGS

VIEWS OF SOCRATES POTTER ON LIFE AND PEOPLE.

Irving Bacheller's Small Town Lawyer Utters Many Philosophical Remarks That Will Be Appreciated by Reader.

Irving Bacheller has left behind "Eben Holden" and the school of homespun philosophy in his new book "Keeping Up With Lizzie," but has made one character, Socrates Potter, a shrewd but educated small town lawyer, the philosopher of "Keeping Up With Lizzie." Here are some of his sayings:

"The land'll soak up all the education you've got and yell for more. Its great need is education. We've put everything on the farm but brains."

"It costs money, big money, an' more, to produce a generation of invalids."

"Every spoilt woman stands for a fool man. Most o' them need not a master but a frank confessor."

"The boys are concluding it's cheaper to buy a piano-player than to marry one; that canned prima donnas are better than the home grown article; that women are more to be desired than playthings."

"One day in the old time a couple of industrious Yankees were hard at work in a field. Suddenly one said to the other, 'I wish I had ten thousand dollars,' and the other asked, 'What would you do with it?' The wisher answered, 'What would I do with it? Why, you cussed fool, I'd set down—an' without blamin' myself.'"

"I can get more fun out of one happy human soul than out of all the dogs an' horses in creation."

"Cares are like hells; it don't do to get rid of 'em too quick. They're often a great relief to the inside of a man, an' it's better to have 'em on the surface than way down in your marrow."

"You've got to reach the women, somehow, you see, before you can improve the social conditions of a community. I love them, but many are overgrown children, doin' nothing with singular skill an' determination an' often with appalling energy."

"If we must all be lawyers or bankers or brokers or graspin' middlemen in order to live, let's start a big asylum for the upright an' give 'em a chance to die comfortably."

"One o' these days the old earth 'll be lopsided with the fruitfulness of America."

"Now, there's Bill Warburton. I supposed he was a friend o' mine, but I caught him tryin' to slip an automobile on me. There he was tryin' to rob me o' the use o' my legs an' about fifteen hundred a year for expenses, an' build me into a fat man with indigestion, an' liver complaint. I served an injunction on him."

## Women as Accountants.

Four or five years ago I asked M. Magnan, who had just retired from the governorship of the Bank of France, what he thought of the lady clerks and other employees there. He had a better opinion of them than of their brother employees. It greatly grieved him that he could not apply the principle of an equal wage for an equal task executed in a way that left nothing to be desired. He knew but very few cases of employees being guilty of levity or inattention or slothfulness in the discharge of their functions. They took pleasure in doing their best, apart from the hope of promotion.

M. Magnan employed women exclusively as sorters of bank notes. They worked quickly and their fingers had an unerring touch in feeling the difference between a bad and a good note. The director of the sorting department (a man) never knew the discerning tact of a sortress to be at fault. As accountants he thought the average woman better than the average man, both in quickness and accuracy in calculation.—Paris Letter to London Truth.

## Bluffing a British Bore.

Arthur Cavill, swimming instructor at the Multnomah Athletic club, Portland, sometimes comes through with a keenly caustic remark. Recently he sat with some friends at the Hellig, just in front of a box in which some near-society folk were having a theater party. A very talkative member of the box party was a nasal-toned young Englishman, whose raucous voice was almost continuously heard in a succession of insane small talk.

Cavill and his friends, just in front of the box, were having their nerves worn to a frazzle, but all endured the ordeal in silence until the forgoth tones were uplifted in an insistent invitation to the rest of the party to visit his sheep ranch and partake of the hospitality of the sheep camp.

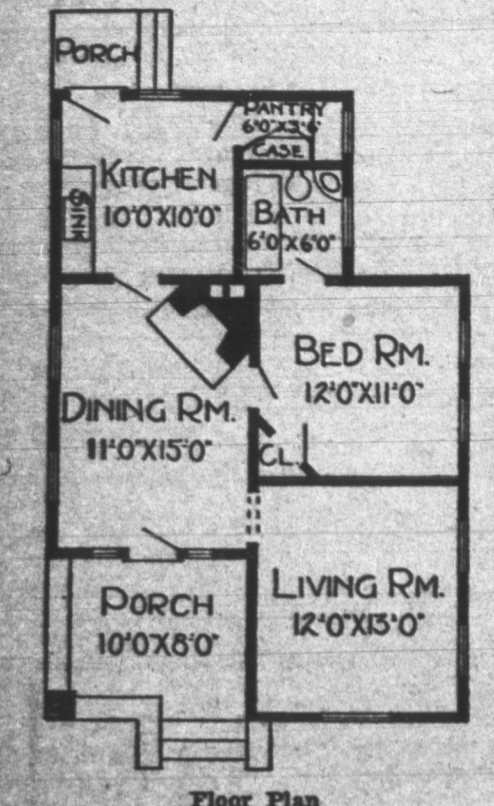
"I should be chawmed, dontcheknow," the Englishman was saying, "to have you drop in any minute, but send me a word ahead, dontcheknow, and I'll kill the fatted calf."

"That would be suicide," said Cavill, all too audibly, and throughout the rest of the play there was peace.—Portland Oregonian.

## What He Missed.

"Gracious!" exclaimed Mrs. Goodley. "Just listen to that clergyman! I'm positive he's swearing. Evidently he's missed his vocation."

"No," replied her husband, "I think it was his train."—Stray Stories.



Floor Plan

same as the owner, and the health of the workmen and their families is not at stake afterward, as the escape of a little sewer gas here and there will not mean anything to them. You make a solid contract and the contractor may live up to it, but you have no guarantee that he will do so, and you cannot get at the underground details after the trenches are filled. So the only way to know that a job is done right is to inspect it as the work goes along. Of course you can hire a man to do this, and you can usually depend on such a man, especially if he is a stranger and does not know the contractor. I prefer to have an inspector who is a stranger in the neighborhood, a man who is personally not acquainted with any man on the job. I am not a pessimist and have