

Making——

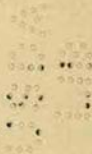
The Farm a Paradise;

A Plan for the

Farm-Domains and Villages.

— By —

Dr. Alesha Sivārtha.

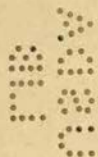


The great rural movement of the future is the evolution of a new social economy.—Prof. Bailey.

1908

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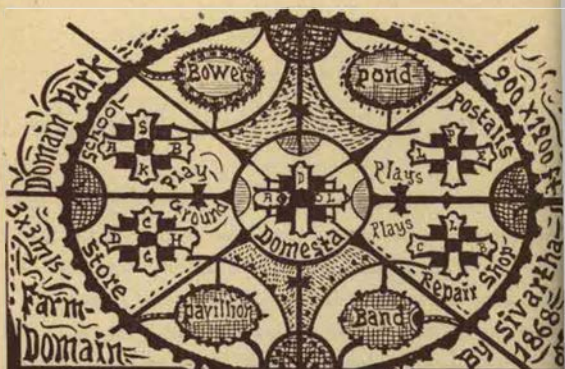
Making the Farm a Paradise

How can we make farm life attractive so that the farmer's sons and daughters shall not be lured away by the pleasures, the excitements and the condensed social life of the villages and cities?

Can we change the isolated farm life, with its widely separated houses and their distance from the church, the store, the shops, and other centers of interest, as well as of business, or of amusement?

The welfare of the farmer, not less than the security and happiness of the family, depends upon the answer to these two questions. Man is not merely a thinker and worker. He is also a social being, and the isolation of farm life has violated or starved this part of his nature to a large extent.

We believe that there is but one practical answer to these urgent and vital questions: **THE FARMERS MUST ORGANIZE AND CONCENTRATE AROUND CENTRAL POINTS**, just as the great manufactories and other kinds of business have done in order to achieve their colossal fortunes. We must bring or build the farm houses nearer together. We must group them in a central section or square, and place the great crop-fields



Forestry →	Willow	pop-corn	sweet corn	Mill	← Woodland →	Wheat	(Cotton)
Flax	23	22	21	maize	maize	Grain-fields	N.E. Quarter
Exper.	23	22	21	maize	maize	Grain-fields	80-acres
Nut trees	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
Cl.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Apples	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Peaches	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Plums	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Pears	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

-Chart First.- Copyright 1884, Re-entered 1908-C.E.

FARM DOMAINS.

outside of this home-square. And this square, with its central park, takes the place of the old-style "country village."

The first Chart will illustrate the general plan of these Farm Domains. One of the minimum size would be 3 x 3 miles in extent, or 5,760 acres. In some parts of the country, devoted to maize and wheat raising, the Domains could be 5 x 7 miles in extent, or more than 16,000 acres. As shown in the lower part of the first chart, the domains are divided into mile and quarter-mile sections. In many of the States the townships are laid out in mile sections and each section line is a legal road. These would all harmonize with the roads of the domains.

In the Chart, four broad lines divide the domain and its home-square into four quarters. In the second chart the home-square is enlarged and the places of the dwellings are indicated by little crosses.

Those farmers who choose for their chief work the culture and care of the large and small fruits and of vegetables, these farmers would select their house-lots in the southwest quarter of the home-square, so as to be nearest to their fields of work. Those who choose grain culture would select their house-lots in the northeast quarter of the square, and thus live adjacent to the grain-fields.

PLAN OF A School House

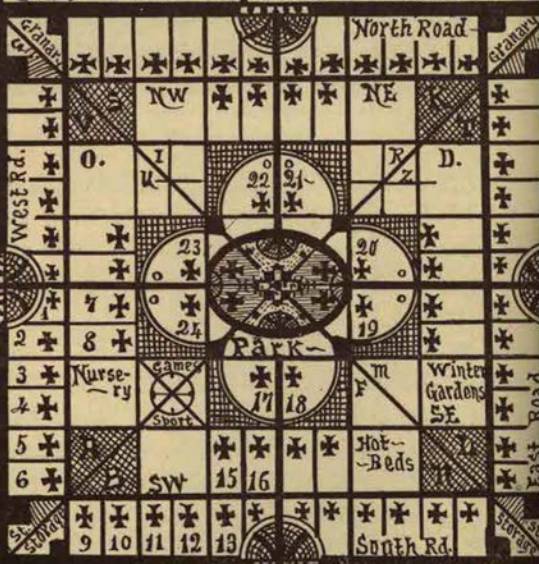
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The Home-Square or Villestad

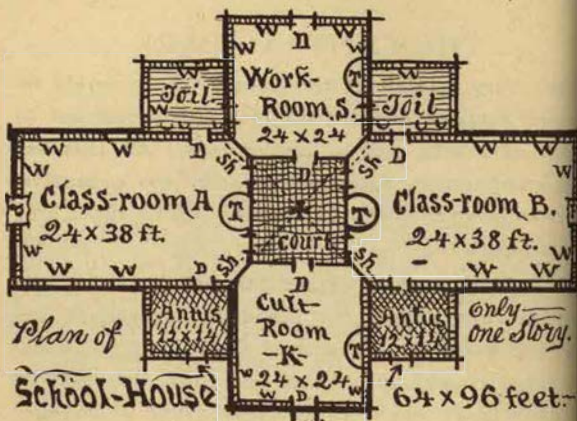


THE VILLESTA.

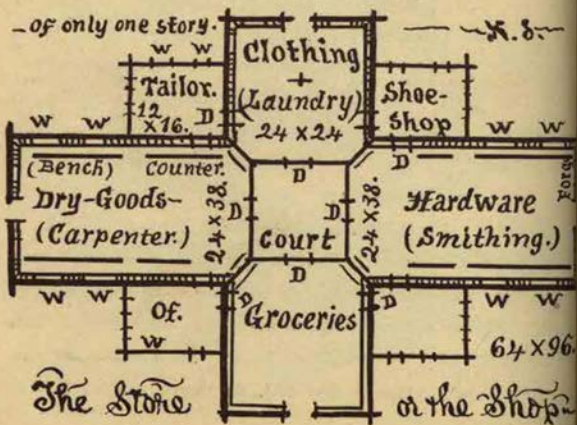
The same principle is observed in each of the quarters. The farmers group themselves according to their talent for different kinds of work, and in each case locate their homes as near as can be to their principal fields of labor. Practically they are as near their work as they were in the old style of farms.

In beginning a domain, the farmers would decide collectively what parts of it have soil or surface adapted to each kind of a crop, and they would allot the fields accordingly. All the large crops of a given kind are allotted to the same section. The 64 families of the domain do not have 64 separate wheat fields. All the wheat is in one great field or section. Each farmer keeps an account of the days' work that he has done in any of the fields. By comparing this account with that of the other workers, he knows just what will be his share of the crops at harvest time. It is private and not collective ownership that prevails.

By thus arranging the crops together there would be effected a large economy of labor in seeding, cultivating and harvesting. The best of farming implements and machines could be secured by the smaller expense of owning them collectively. Of course each farmer and his children would have a part of their time for the individual culture of the home lot and garden.



The same general Plan of Rooms is to be used for the School, the Store, the Repair Shop, and the Post and Parcel Office.



SOCIAL LIFE.

ings. The farmers themselves are now the villagers. At night, when they come home from their field-work, they are gathering from all directions toward the central square with its park as the focus of their business and of their social life. In the old style of farm life they would have scattered, instead of gathering at eventide. The park is 120 rods, or a ten minutes' walk, from the farthest of the dwellings. In this plan the children are close by the graded school.

A general plan of the park is given at the upper part of the first chart. It is eighty rods long, or about 30 acres. The central building, or Domesta, is shown by a front elevation and a ground plan in chart third. The Domesta has an audience room, or Audita, that seats five hundred people. This room is used for the Sunday meetings, for social gatherings, lectures, entertainments, discussions, etc. It is built in the shape of an ellipse, because this form possesses the very best acoustic properties. At the east end of the Domesta is the Reading-room, Parlor and Library, all in one. This is 60 feet long, the same as the Audita. On the north side of the building is the Dining-room, with a kitchen and bakery attached. In the hurry times of harvesting and some other kinds of field work, and for picnics or festivals, the housewives need

THE FOUR FESTIVALS.

not make their own bread and pastry. All would be done at the bakery.

The corner rooms of the Domesta are used by those who constitute the Board of Trustees.

The School-house has two large rooms for the common book-teaching, and two rooms with benches and tools for direct object teaching. This building is adapted to the best plans of school work which consider that education should not only use natural methods of instruction, but that it should combine with these a systematic culture of all the mental faculties and a training of all the muscles.

The Store has four large rooms, for clothing, for dry goods, for hardware, and for groceries. The smaller rooms include a tailor shop, a shoe shop, a dress-making room, and an office.

The Repair Shop has benches, forges, lathes, and the various kinds of tools required for repairs that are needed in the course of farm work. On the north side is marked the general laundry.

The Postalis includes the Post Office, the Express or Parcel Office, the Telegraph and Telephone, all in one building.

The Park and all of its buildings are owned by the farmers of the Domain, just as in past times they owned together the district school-house. The Park is cared for by a board of not less than seven

THE COMING HOMES.

Trustees and Directors, elected by the farmers. Four of the Trustees are men and three are women. They are titled the Marshal or President, the Matron, the Recorder, the Conductor or Master of the School, the Economist, the Sanatist or Doctor, and the Postalist.

The farmers should also own collectively the granaries, the storage houses, the fruitery or canning place, and the play-grounds.

The woodland is placed on the north and west sides of each Domain, thus forming a complete wind-break six hundred feet wide. With the trees set twelve feet apart, this would contain 120,000 trees.

In the social life of the Villesta, it will be wise for the farmers to have festivals at the four turning points of the year. The New Year's festival would be at the Vernal Equinox, or 21st of March. The days and nights are then of equal length, and astronomy teaches that this is the natural beginning of the year, counting from six o'clock in the morning, not from midnight. The second festival is at the Summer Solstice, or June 21st, the longest day. The third is at the Autumnal Equinox, September 21st. The fourth festival is at the Winter Solstice, December 21st, or the shortest day of the year.

This general plan of the Domains gives the

THE CHANGES.

farmer all the advantages of village or city life, with none of its evils. At eventide, for business or for pleasure, all the farmers and their families can gather at the central hall or the parlor in twenty minutes' time. They can act together with the greatest possible efficiency and dispatch in all that concerns their collective interests and welfare. And good judges have estimated that the many sources of economy in this plan would give the farmer at least one-third more as the product of his labor. These large and constant savings would amount to enough in three years' time to build anew all the farm-houses in the United States.

The plans of the farm domains are available in the older settled States not less than in the unoccupied regions of country. The settled States will simply take a longer time, several years perhaps, to bring about the much-needed changes. The farmers must not expect that they can remove the evils and obstacles of the old style and yet have the change cost them nothing. But, large as the cost may seem to be, it will be found very small in comparison with the immense and permanent advantages to be gained.

The plans themselves are based upon the fixed laws of both art and mathematical science.

THE HERITAGE.

We would have the home estate descend in the family line for generations. When the single families become so large that some of them must needs go away and form new domains, let some of them stay on the old home place. Then those who have left can, in after-years, return and visit the ancestral homestead, with all of its pleasant associated memories.

