

POST-WAR BUILDINGS

NO. 17

FARM BUILDINGS

BY

A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES



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FOREWORD BY THE
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Old country such as ours, many industries have been handicapped because we have inherited fixed plant that does not suit modern practice. Agriculture is no exception, and our farms daily demonstrate the difficulty of maintaining high standards of milk production, animal health and of the storage of produce in buildings which may be anything between 100 and 500 years old, and often in a poor state of repair.

A good set of buildings cannot change a poor farm into a rich farm, but a good set of buildings properly laid out and properly equipped will enable the best use to be made of land, labour and stock. I believe firmly that British agriculture can make a most important contribution to the maintenance of a high standard of living in this country, and to this end we should re-equip our farms with modern buildings as soon as we can.

We have got to achieve this work of re-equipment as soon as possible, largely during a period when there will be many other calls upon building labour and materials. We must, therefore, make the fullest possible use of all the existing buildings that can be adapted, and make sure that we do not make mistakes in the buildings we put up. These new buildings, whether they are needed for housing stock, for storage or for processing, must be well laid out, designed to ease work on the farm, capable of adaptation to meet the varying needs of agriculture, simple, cheap and in harmony with the countryside. All these problems of adaptation and new construction are difficult.

For the reasons that I appointed, in November 1942, a Committee on Buildings, after two years' hard work they have completed a most valuable report. Their recommendations are now being carefully studied. One of the members of the Commission will visit Canada and the United States this year to study buildings there. The Report of the Committee, with illustrations and designs, should be of great help to architects, and to all others interested in the subject. I hope, therefore, that it will be

R. S. Hudson

COMMITTEE ON FARM BUILDINGS

TO THE RIGHT HON. R. S. HUDSON,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

SIR, We were appointed by you in November 1942, "to consider and make recommendations regarding the layout, design, and construction of farm buildings after the war," and we now submit our Report.

We have suffered two pieces of great ill-fortune in the course of our work. Mr. George Gee, whom you had appointed to the Committee, died in February 1943. We were thus deprived of help in which an authoritative knowledge of building was coupled with first-hand farming experience and solid common sense; and we lost a colleague for whom we felt sincere affection. His place was taken by Mr. H. T. Holloway. Then our Chairman, Mr. Tristram Haward, was taken so seriously ill in March 1944, that he was unable to take any further part in our work, and he died in the following December. While he presided over us he was a wise counsellor, a gentle but firm mentor, and a friend.

Mr. J. C. Turner, who left on a mission abroad shortly before the Committee finished its work, has not been able to sign the Report. His comments on the final drafts of nearly all the Chapters had, however, been received before he left, and he was in agreement with our recommendations.

Your Committee was linked with a series of Study Groups set up by Departments or by members of technical organizations under the general supervision of the Ministry of Works. This relationship with bodies investigating analogous subjects has been valuable.

Mention should be made of the way in which our work was organized. We set up a Technical Sub-Committee with the duty of designing and reducing to drawings, buildings satisfying those requirements which our studies had led us to specify. The Sub-Committee had no enviable task; their meetings have been frequent and long. The Committee are greatly indebted to them and in particular to Major J. B. F. Cowper, F.R.I.B.A., who was their Chairman. We must also record the services given to the Committee by Mr. A. Thorpe, F.R.I.B.A., Architect to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and his staff who carried out an immense amount of highly proficient work in the preparation of drawings.

The hardest part in the work has inevitably been that of our Secretary, Mr. P. J. Moss. To all the difficulties under which we as a Committee have laboured have been added for him other hindrances to the discharge of an exacting task. We highly appreciate his services and heartily thank him.

The preparation of Chapter 9, "Accommodation for Milking Cows, their Followers, and the Dairy"—one of the most important Chapters in our Report—requires particular mention. The Ministry's Bulletin No. 40, *The Construction of Cowhouses*, has, we understand, always been the most popular of the Ministry's Bulletins, in greatest and most constant demand. Your predecessor of the time had appointed a Committee in 1938 to revise the Bulletin with a view to reprinting. That Committee had made a revised draft but the outbreak of war led to the postponement of its presentation. Realizing that our Chapter 9 must cover substantially the same ground as Bulletin 40 we approached the Chairman of the

FARM BUILDINGS

Bulletin 40 Committee, Professor H. D. Kay of Reading University, and the following joint Sub-Committee was set up:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Chairman:</i> | J. Mackintosh. |
| <i>Farm Buildings Committee:</i> | W. Alexander. J. Turner, B.Sc. R. W. Trumper. A. Thorpe, F.R.I.B.A. |
| <i>Bulletin 40 Committee:</i> | H. T. Tate, F.S.I., F.L.A.S. E. Whone, M.B.E. J. Holmes, B.Sc.(Agric.), N.D.D.(Hons.). |
| <i>Secretary:</i> | L. J. Gray. |

Their work resulted in a revised form of Bulletin 40 which appears as Chapter 9 of our Report.

In normal circumstances we would have been able to reap great advantage from extensive visits to farm holdings in various parts of the country, and from the study of modern farm building development in certain other countries. The difficulties of war travelling have confined us to this country and have limited our inspection of buildings to a relatively small number of specially selected examples.

We naturally desired to draw as fully as possible on the knowledge and experience of landowners and agents, of farmers, of farm workers and of agricultural scientists. To this end we invited the bodies named in an Appendix to our Report to assist us by sending statements of their views. We are greatly indebted to the bodies and the individuals who have assisted us by statements and by designs, and for all their help we make grateful acknowledgment.

We believe that the recommendations on the layout, design, and construction of farm buildings which we make in our Report are the best which can be made in the light of present knowledge. We have, however, been impressed by the limitations of this knowledge, particularly on the relation of housing with health for livestock. Moreover, big changes in farming practice must be expected in the not distant future and these will influence some of the essential features of farm buildings. We have, therefore, recommended for your consideration the setting up of an organization for the continuous study, with experimentation, of farm buildings. We attach the highest importance to this project.

F. L. ENGLEDDOW, *Chairman*.
W. ALEXANDER.
J. STANLEY CHIVERS.
A. DOUGLAS.
EDWIN GUNN.
E. HOLLAND-MARTIN.
HENRY T. HOLLOWAY.
W. HOLMES.
RICHARD W. TRUMPER.

P. J. MOSS, *Secretary*.

ALEC THORPE, *Technical Secretary*.

19th March, 1945.

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APPENDIX

Written statements of evidence were received from the following bodies, to whom we make grateful acknowledgment:

- The Auctioneers' and Estate Agents' Institute of the United Kingdom.
- The Central Landowners' Association.
- The Chartered Surveyors' Institution.
- The County Councils' Association.
- The County Land Agents' Association.
- The Land Agents' Society.
- The National Farmers' Union.
- The National Federation of Building Trades Employers
- The National Institute for Research in Dairying.
- The National Union of Agricultural Workers.
- The National Veterinary Medical Association.
- The Royal Institute of British Architects.
- The Sanitary Inspectors' Association.

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¹ Mr. T. W. Haward was taken seriously ill in March 1944, and was unable to take any further part in the work of the Committee. He died in the following December. Sir Frank Engledow has since acted as Chairman.

² Sir Patrick Abercrombie was unable to sign the Report owing to absence abroad.

³ Mr. George Gee died in February 1943.

⁴ Mr. James Turner left on a mission abroad in October 1944, and has, therefore, been unable to sign the Report.

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