

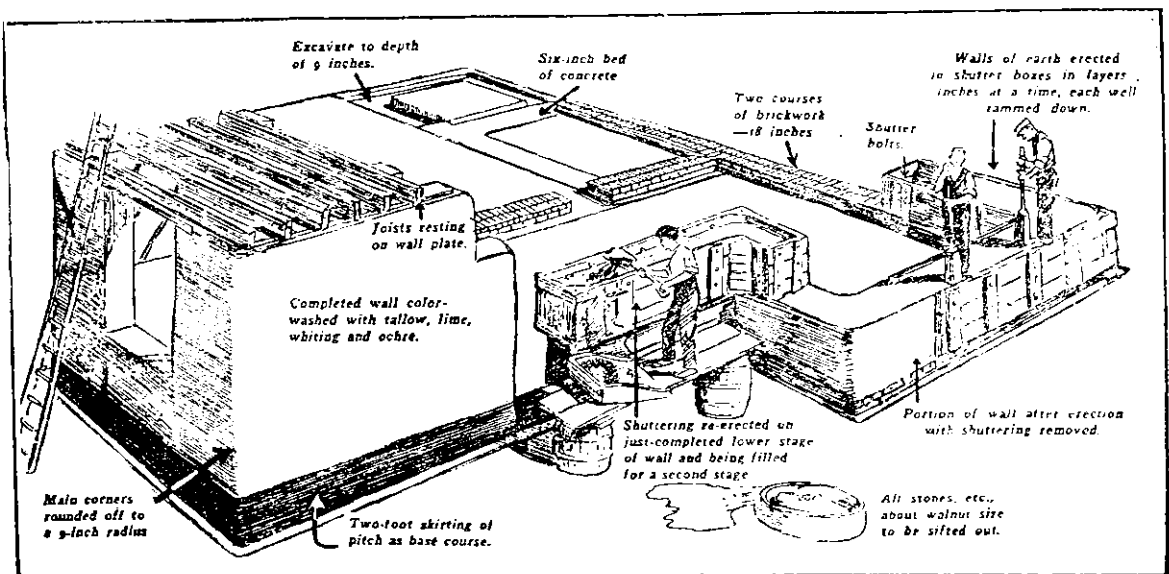
man or moderately salaried individual. Houses which five years ago could easily be built for £800 or £900, will now cost £1,600 or £1,800 to build.

A Congressional committee, reporting on the war-housing activities of the United States Housing Corporation, states: 'Single houses in Bridgeport, Conn., cost £1450. The average for all houses was £1135. It is not stated whether these houses represent a complete house or whether such necessary items as weather-stripping, electric fixtures, sidewalks, etc., were omitted. Probably no profit for the contractor nor cost of architectural service was included in these figures. And since the time when these houses were constructed the cost of building has advanced possibly as much as 25 per cent. . . .

It can readily be seen that to pay rent or to own this home the occupant should have an income of at least £700 per year. At 4/2 per hour and working

flers in this country, who built of logs; and the early Spaniards and Indians of America's Western States, who built of unbaked clay, or adobe. There are abundant examples of these earth dwellings in America which compare favourably with the usual forms of construction for durability, looks, and comfort. The mission buildings in California are constructed of this material, as well as many dwellings still in use after more than a century of wear. In this connection, one wonders why no one thought to construct our war-cantonments and barracks of this material instead of the unsightly, uncomfortable, and costly wooden shacks universally used.

Adobe is a Spanish word from *adobar* (to plaster). It is nothing but air-dried brick, weatherproofed with plaster, and any traveller in Mexico or California knows that these buildings are as beautiful as any we produce in the same class.



How the Earth House is built. Showing method of Ramming the Dry Earth between Wooden Shutterings.

eight hours a day for three hundred days a year, one could earn only £480, which is inadequate income for above basis of cost of rent.

So far as one can learn, every new housing project yet planned or constructed either in this country or in Europe has been based on some form of tenement or the traditional story-and-a-half cottage, usually containing five or six rooms and constructed in the customary way of either brick, hollow clay tile, or wood. It would seem, therefore, if it is possible to beat the building game it will be necessary to evolve an entirely new type of house or find some cheaper material as a substitute. It might be possible to evolve the former if architects and builders could rid themselves of tradition and study the matter as though isolated in a country without the usual facilities of civilization and depend only upon their ingenuity and the materials which nature locally provides.

In this way the Eskimo invented a cheap and comfortable dwelling built of ice; so did the early set-

Many excellent plans for small cottages of the conventional American type have been developed by the United States Shipping Board and also by private architects, but as all of these have proved too costly to build, at least from a commercial standpoint, some new type of home will have to be devised in which every superfluous square inch of area and any unnecessary feature must be eliminated. Other possible economies may yet be found in new processes or materials as substitutes for present methods. Some years ago Mr. Edison led us to hope for much from his concrete house, but so far all forms of concrete have proved as costly at least as other forms of masonry."

The Westland Chamber of Commerce resolved, in view of the paper shortage, to invite the Government to disclose its policy regarding the establishment of paper manufacturing or to indicate what facilities would be given in the way of a subsidy and rights to enable private enterprise to take up the project on the West Coast.