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CHIMNEY BRICKS FOR A HOUSE

AFTER A LANDMARK TUMBLED—



Photo N. Horne, Totnes

THEY'LL COME IN HANDY THOUGHT MR. SOPER

WHAT goes up must come down, they say. Mr. John Soper is about to reverse the procedure at Harbertonford. When the old woollen mill chimney took a nose-dive last autumn, he eyed the 33,000 bricks that tumbled down and earmarked them for a useful old-age. The bricks, he thought, would come in handy for providing a house for himself and his family.

He plans a start in a few months' time; at the moment the bricks are piled near the site. Getting them there was an operation in itself, for when the chimney came down its base ploughed four feet into the ground.

The village's familiar landmark was built at the foot of a stream. To bring it down, bricks were taken out half way round the base. The small pillar support which remained was then blown up with gelignite, and the chimney toppled over as planned—across the stream and into the adjoining field. A makeshift bridge was needed when the bricks were later brought back to the other side.

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Altogether, about 40,000 bricks will be needed for the house, which will be for Mr. and Mrs. Soper and their small son and daughter. At present they're living in one of the eight cottages which Mr. Soper bought with the mill. Six of the cottages have been sold. The main building of the old woollen mill has been acquired by Messrs. Gerald Glanville Ltd., of Newton Abbot.

The other buildings will be used for Mr. Soper's agricultural engineering business, Messrs. R. Soper and Son (Harbertonford), which will open up next Monday, although already there is a certain amount of trade in hand. Brother Mr. Alan Soper will run their former business, Messrs. R. Soper and Son (East Allington).

The mill closed because it was uneconomic to run, and there was no further use for the 120-foot chimney. But its bricks will lop £450 off the bill when the house comes to be built. And that will be a tale of talk about . . . in chimney corner.

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