

House-Cleaning Joys.

When the soap is on the stairway and the rugs are on the lawn, And the paperhanger's coming while the plasterer has gone, When the men are all dejected and are bothered with the blues, While the wives are madly shuffling in enormous overshoes— O! the house is in a turmoil at the very blush of dawn, When the soap is on the stairway and the rugs are on the lawn.

Beautifying The Home.

Nearly every person, we believe, be he old or young, rich or poor, ignorant or cultured, delights to look upon a home surrounded by well-kept grounds, studded with shrubs and flowers, and wide-spreading trees, says the Quebec Journal of Agriculture. Such a scene somehow appeals to the sense of the artistic and beautiful in his nature in a way that nothing else does. In this age of hurry and hustle, when men and women find little time for the enjoyment of home comforts, there is a strong tendency to neglect the home surroundings, either as a matter of little account or as a condition forced about them. We can excuse the city man whose home is hemmed in by long rows of houses and scarcely a square yard of available space for grounds. The situation thus forced upon them is natural, and he often longs, we may be sure, for the open air and the grass and trees which he finds only in the public parks. But with the man in the country the case is different; he has the opportunity which the open country offers of surrounding himself with the best from Nature's garden. How often, however, one finds the farm house as cheerless and as forbidding as the most congested city house. With the removal of the trees of the primeval forest, frequently no attempt has been made to replace them by others that would furnish shelter in winter and cool, refreshing shade in the hot days of summer.

This province of Quebec, we are pleased to note, can boast of many beautiful homes that would do credit to the older countries of Europe. Seigneur brought with him from the old land his love for the stately mansions and the delightful pleasure grounds, but in the long periods of stress that led up to the settlement of the province, the majority of the rural people were unable to pay much attention to the matter of improvement of the home surroundings.

Those were the bread and butter days of bare existence, but with the greater material comforts of to-day may we not expect to find a revival of the spirit of the seigneurs, in the planting of flowers and shrubs and trees about the home? The influence of beautiful surroundings of the ideal country home is an important factor and a greater factor than most of us believe, in the education and uplift of the fortunate possessor. John Stuart Mill, one of the greatest of economists, has said: Solitude in the presence of the natural beauty and grandeur is the cradle of thought and aspirations which are not only good for the individual but which society could ill do without, and Victor Hugo has very truly said the beautifying is as useful as the useful. Our country is young, but with the first necessities of food, clothing and shelter provided, more leisure will furnish beautiful home surroundings which in time will perhaps vie with those of the older world.

Moreover, from a business standpoint, the beautifying of home grounds is always a good investment should the owner ever be compelled by force of circumstances to dispose of his property. A hundred dollars spent in planting out shrubs and trees, and in grading would improve the appearance of the farm to such an extent in a few years that any buyer would be willing to pay an extra thousand dollars for the property.

From every point of view, therefore, the improvement of home grounds would benefit the owner and his family. A bare, treeless farm home is, to say the least, a uninviting place, and, moreover, is always an incentive to the young people to leave for more cheerful surroundings. In fact, it will be conceded by nearly everyone who gives the matter any attention, that the subject plays no unimportant part in any discussion of the causes why people leave the country for the city.

Possibilities of Concrete.

A Cleveland paper under recent date reports the following rather remarkable prediction in the future use of concrete, made by Richard L. Humphrey, engineer in charge of the structural materials testing laboratories of the United States geological survey.

"Concrete, cheap and beautiful, will be the building material in 1919. Everything will be of concrete then. Ten years from now all the skyscraping buildings will be of concrete, and they will be fireproof. Clevelanders will come down part of the way over concrete streets, and part of the way in a clean concrete subway. They will walk on concrete street and sidewalks to their offices, which will be of concrete. Both office and house rent will be less by reason of the smaller original investment and the reduced cost of up-keep. There will be practically no insurance to pay and houses will last forever.

"If Cleveland were built to-day with concrete, \$53,000,000 would be saved the people. On municipal buildings, sewers, paving sidewalks and bridges the saving, if they were built of concrete, would be about \$6,800,000, and figuring from the tax duplicate for this year that \$281,500,000 represents buildings, the saving would be about one-fifth of that or about \$16,000,000.

Powles' Corners.

(Correspondence of the Gazette.)

Mrs. A. L. Courtney spent a few days here, visiting relatives, before her departure for Tonkins, Sask. Mr. J. Moore called on his son William at Crosswell last week. Dr. H. Graham, of Fenelon Falls, made a professional visit to Mrs. J. Knox, who is in her 85th year, and is naturally becoming feeble.

One of our farmers is looking ahead, as he is reserving a quantity of ensilage to feed his cows when the pasture dries up in the summer. He has turned his cows on the road, much to the sorrow of some of his neighbors. How would it do to keep the cows off the road and feed them the ensilage, and sow some corn near the barn for dry weather?

The Hon. A. Campbell, of the Queen City Milling Co., tells of a young man to whom he sold a lot two or three years ago, and when the papers for the transfer of the property were completed, the purchaser said to him: "That lot is to me the result of local option in West Toronto. I never saved any money until local option came into force, and I never could have purchased this lot, for which I am paying \$300, had it not been for the influence of local option, as I simply could not pass the bar-room without going in and taking a drink. That was where my money went. Now I am able to put it into a lot and, some time, a home for myself." He said that when local option was first submitted in West Toronto, he voted against it in every ward in which he had a vote; but after three years' trial he supported it, because it was a good thing. And it would be a good thing for Fenelon Falls.

Motors and Roads.

Canadian Farm.

In England, as our British correspondent points out this week, they have road problems of about the same character as we have in Canada. They have come about because of the automobile. To a greater extent, perhaps, than here, the farmer in the old land has been taxed for the maintenance of country roads. He has expended his good money on building these roads and is largely taxed for their maintenance. He is, however, human, a characteristic, by the way, of farmers wherever you find them, and resents, as do the farmers in this country, the roads which he is maintaining being given over, without by your leave, to the motor car man. There was a time in England as here, when the farmer took some real pleasure out of the roads he has constructed and maintained. The advent of the automobile has changed all this. One of the pleasures of the farm life, a drive on the country road behind a spanking team or a fancy driver, is not what it used to be. The farmer to-day uses the roads more from necessity than for the pleasure there is in driving over them, and takes the quietest horse on the farm to take him about, which may be some old plug that would not be frightened at an earthquake.

This changed condition brings about a new situation in regard to the control and maintenance of roads. Farmers should not be held responsible for the up-keep of roads that are to a large extent monopolized by another class of citizens. If others are to use the roads there should be a change in control and responsibility for maintenance. Who should assume this responsibility? In our humble opinion it should be the government. The motor car man uses largely the main roads of the country, those leading from one large centre of population to another. Let the government take over these main roads and be responsible for their maintenance and one of the grievances, in fact about the only grievance, the farmer has against the automobile, will be removed. The government could impose a tax on the automobile owner, sufficient to meet his share of the injury to roads from that kind of travel. There is no gainsaying the fact that automobile travel causes serious injury to country roads, more, perhaps, than the motor car man imagines. The automobile has come to stay. The only satisfactory solution is government-owned roads.

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Everything is said to be proceeding nicely at the drilling for ore at Blairton iron mines. The Diamond Drill Co., of Sudbury, who have the contract from the Hamilton Steel & Iron Co. to make an examination of the mine, have now two diamond drills at work, under the management of Mr. McEris. Mr. Hamilton, of the firm of Hamilton & Henshall, of New York, mining engineers, is making a magnetic survey of the mine.

Mr. John Doherty, of the Hastings Road, has secured through the local Department of Agriculture, a quantity of broom corn seed and intends to do a little experimenting this season in the growing of broom corn. Nothing like trying. It is only a few years since people thought it impossible to bring certain varieties of ensilage to maturity in this section—now acres of this corn is grown here.—Norwood Register.

At a performance of "Faust," in Cork, Ireland, the gentleman who enacted the part of Mephistopheles was so stout that the trapdoor was too small to permit his descent to the infernal regions, and all of his person above the waist was still plainly visible over the stage. One of the gallery gaffers noticing his dilemma, exclaimed, "Begorra, the place is full!"

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NEWSPAPER LAW.

1. A post-master is required to give notice by letter (returning the paper does not answer the law), when a subscriber does not take his paper out of the office, and state the reasons for its not being taken. Any neglect to do so makes the postmaster responsible to the publisher for payment.

2. If any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount whether the paper is taken from the office or not. There can be no legal discontinuance until the payment is made.

3. Any person who takes a paper from the post-office, whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for the pay.

4. If a subscriber orders his paper to be stopped at ascertain time and the publisher continues to send it, the subscriber is bound to pay for it if he takes it from the post-office. This proceeds upon the ground that a man must pay for what he uses.

5. Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post-office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.