

In the peculiar boom at Oakville the lives of several hundred sober country people were suddenly invaded by an entirely different level of customs introduced from the cosmopolitan city. They studied what to them appeared unusual that the city people did. A man who has lived in Oakville all his life took me out for a drive and told me something about the influence of their new environment had upon some of the old townspeople.

"One thing I want you to carry away from this place. Have you been noticing the way the people have been keeping their lawns tidy about their front steps? See old Jim What-do-you-call-him over there? Man with the beard and shears—look! Well, he was a farmer three miles out for thirty years. At last got to town. Built a house. But hanged if he could keep his lawn cut. Didn't seem natural for him to keep grass from growin'. And for waterin' it! Gosh! A farmer like Jim did feel a fool gettin' out on the stoop in the evenins with one of them nozzle things and squirtin' water on a piece of land not any bigger than a box stall. You see old Jim didn't see any logic in it. Then, one day, one of these city men moved across the street from him and in a month this chap had a lawn like green velvet carpet."

A revolution of merely fine buildings or new government doesn't count for much. Changes in a community without a sociological uplift are often more anarchical than progressive. In Oakville a great many people have been getting a broader outlook. The old-timers of Oakville have not been alone in getting a new point of view. Plutocratic Mr. Ryrie, who until five years ago had lived all his life in the city, has a brand new attitude toward life; so has Mr. Cox, wealthy man about town.

Said the jeweller to me: "Away from the grind? Why it's exhilarating, an elixir this country life!"

And the Senator's son: "Every town chap in a country like this ought to have a piece of God's country, where he can walk round in his shirtsleeves. Why, I'd live out here—yes, I'll do it yet, you'll see."

If the Country Life Movement in places like Oakville helps to make the country and town understand each other, it will have done a great service for national unity in this Dominion.

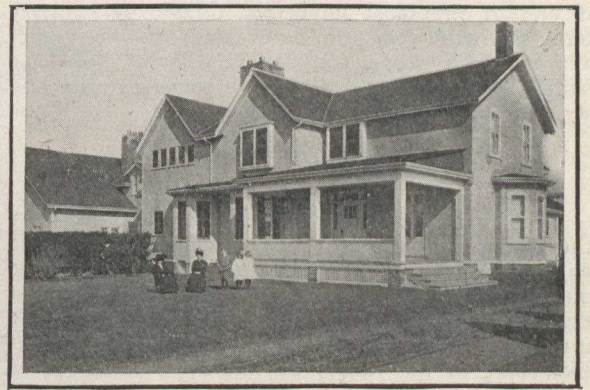
Canadian social life is an intricate complexity. In a country the size of this, which draws the population into so many varied activities, there are of necessity great contrasts in the lives of the people.



Fishing in Oakville Harbour is one of the fascinating pastimes of the city folk.



A fete day at the Oakville Club.



Residence of a city man in a country town.

When no effort is made to understand these contrasts, we have sectionalism and not nationalism; "Farmers" and "Manufacturers," and not Canadians. It is only by living with a person that you really get to know him. The city man who lies in a hammock and gets his idea of rural life from some

popular novel can't half understand the farmer and his problems. But when he buys a house in the country, offers the neighbouring farmer a cigar, and asks him how to drive the hayrake, he is on the track of a new education, which in either city or country is greatly worth while.

## THE SETTING OF THE HOME

*The Artistic Country Home Should Conform to the Landscape*

By G. M. WEST

THE late John M. Carrere, one of the foremost architects in the United States, said, in an article published since his death, "When we come to understand that a house should be merely one feature in a landscape scheme we will make fewer architectural blunders." A glance at almost any successful suburban or country home should satisfy the most doubting that there is much truth in this.

Imagine if you can any of the beautiful country or suburban houses you have seen, stripped of all their setting, of all their surrounding trees and foliage. Again think of the numerous unpretentious simple dwellings whose charming gardens and grounds give them character and distinction. It is only when we grasp this that we can realize how much a part of our home the land and the landscape features are. Fortunately indeed that desire for the simple and beautiful, which is manifesting itself more and more in production of tasteful but yet still inexpensive carpets, furniture, books, fabrics, porcelains and other more or less utilitarian articles about the home, is having its effect, and well designed homes with well designed gardens are not as uncommon as they have been.

Probably the greatest difficulty the home builder encounters is that caused by the hopelessly monotonous methods in vogue for the subdivision of both city and suburban properties. The resulting temptation to try to obtain the desired variety by a municipality

of stunts and an elaboration of detail, has been the cause of many failures. The man who desires to have a pretty and charming suburban home must have a suitable layout for his grounds and gardens. Every layout must differ from every other layout. Each one, with its varying conditions of site not to mention the wide differences in ideas of the owners, presents a separate problem which must be worked out to its own conclusion.

It is impossible to overestimate the value of the setting to the house. They are both parts of what should be a harmonious whole, our home. To be

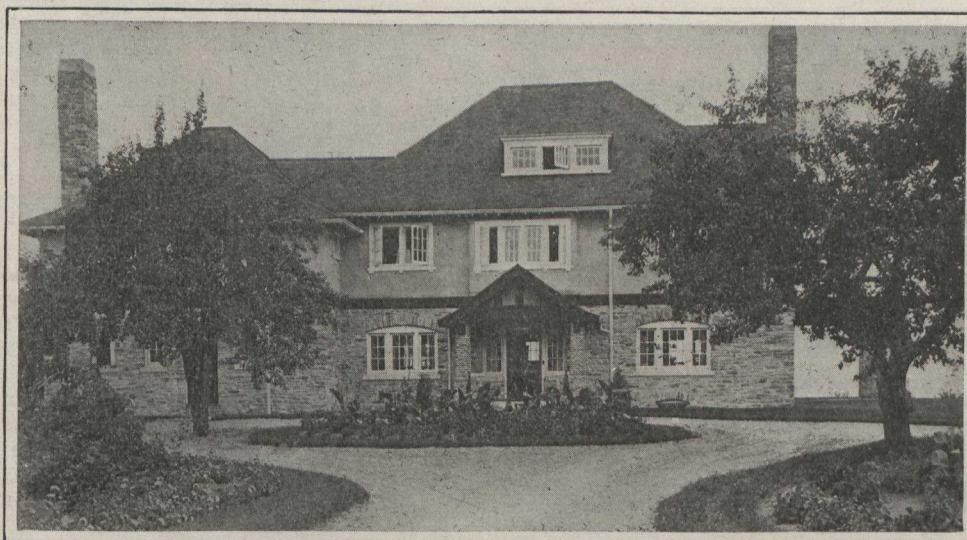
at all successful in our country and suburban domestic work it is perhaps the most important point of all, that we should realize this fact, that the land upon which we build and the features we place upon it are as much part of our home as is the house itself. That usually we have moved from the city to the country in order to obtain more air and sunlight, and that we live more out of doors only goes to strengthen our case. It being granted that this is so, we must be prepared to spend time, thought and money accordingly.

I call to mind one architect whose advice to his client was to save one-third of his outlay to expend outside of the actual cost of his dwelling, and who, furthermore, would not accept the commission unless this part of the work was placed entirely in his hands. There is as much necessity and room for thought in laying out the grounds and garden as in planning the house, as much scope in planting the garden as in selecting the furniture for the house. But the necessity has been sadly neglected.

### Nature's Endowment

First, of course, we must look to what nature has already provided us with in the way of trees, vegetation and natural grades. It is safe to say that never a building has been erected which could not be enhanced by a background of foliage. Trees are as essential to a successful country house as a frame to a picture, and sad indeed is the lot of the architect who has to design without their assistance. More and more are people coming to notice this, and the number of property owners who are planting long before they intend to build is increasing.

Having taken due note of what nature has been pleased to give, let us lay out our house and appurtenances. We must be careful not to fall into that hopelessly uniform and inadequate system of lawns and flower beds which has been so much overworked. Planting is a



A HOUSE SETTING COMPOSED LIKE AN ARTIST'S PICTURE.

The two apple-trees were on the ground to begin with. The house was located to suit the trees. The flower-bed and the driveway were designed to complete the picture.

Country residence of Mr. J. J. Follett, at Oakville.