

Accomplishments of the High Park Horticultural Society

A FEW years ago the High Park district was a Toronto suburb. There were vacant lots with their accompaniment of refuse and weeds. Avenues of trees were unthought of and the vision that the section might become one of the finest residential districts of Toronto, was entertained by but few.

But Toronto grew. It grew with rapidity. It became evident the High Park section was to become a place of homes. Soon the idea was conceived by a few enthusiasts that by concerted action and a little planning it would be possible to ensure the homes that were yet-to-be being planned on lines that would ensure the whole district being made one of the beauty spots of Toronto. And thus was born the High Park Ratepayers' Association.

This was several years ago. The Association, at first, devoted its attention to many lines of work. These included the proper opening up of the district, the attracting of a desirable class of residents, the laying out of the streets. It was realized that this was not sufficient. A horticultural committee was organized. A campaign was launched for the planting of gardens, the laying out of lawns and trees and the general embellishment of the homes of the district. Out of this committee has grown the High Park Horticultural Society.

The transformation that has been effected within a few years borders almost on the miraculous. Hundreds and hundreds of beautiful homes have been erected. A desire for the beautiful in nature has been created which has permeated the whole district until the neighbors vie

with each other in doing what they can to advance the cause in which all have shown so much interest.

Most of the improvements from a horticultural standpoint have been effected within the past four years. In 1911 a campaign was launched to interest the people in the matter of improving the lawns, gardens and general appearance of the property in their district. Prizes were offered for the best kept lawns, gardens and window boxes. That year Andrew Dods was the successful prize winner in the garden competition. The following year the honor was won by Wm. Mormann, Rideout Street. In addition to the regular prizes a resident of the district presented a fine cup for competition. These competitions have been continued each year with splendid results. In addition frequent exhibitions have been held within the past five years. Thus increased interest has been created. When one considers that most of the dwellings have been built within the past five years, the attractive appearance of this part of the city is remarkable. Many of the gardens would seem to have been established for years. A representative of The Canadian Horticulturist had an opportunity some time ago to visit High Park and see for himself the splendid work that is being accomplished. From among the large number of fine lawns and gardens noticed space will permit of only a few being mentioned. The endeavor has been to select a garden from a few of the more important streets and thus have the whole district fairly well represented.

One of the first residences we visited

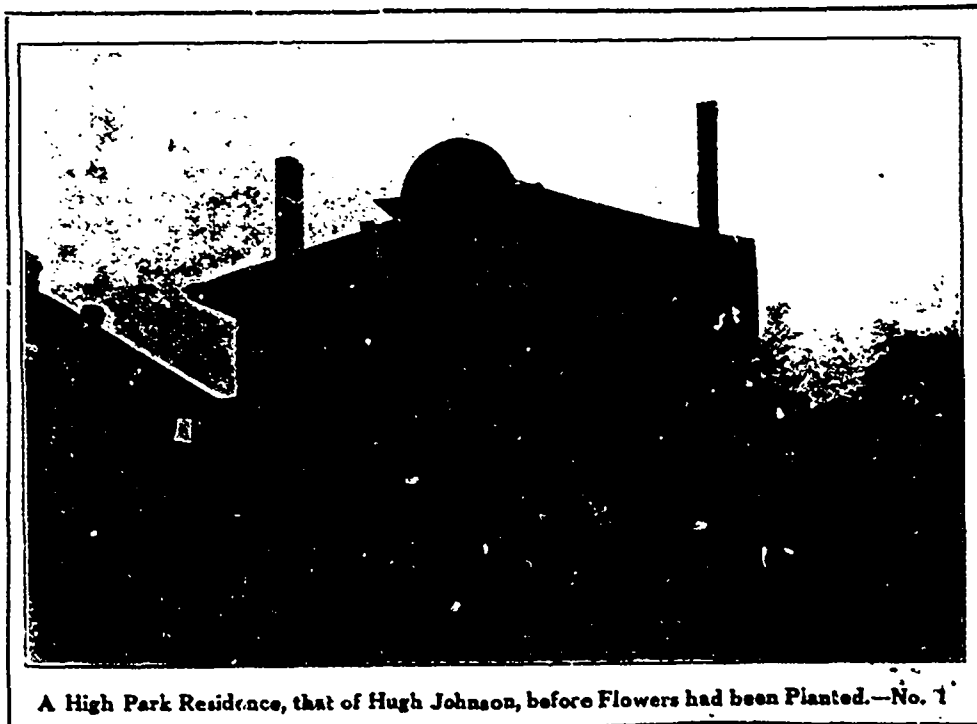
was that of Wm. Mormann, who in 1912 captured the first prize. A noticeable feature about Mr. Mormann's place is the absence of fences. Instead, privet hedges have been planted which are an improvement over the unsightly line fences so often seen. The stump of a tree which Mr. Mormann had occasion to cut down, had been put to good use by placing on it a box, three by four feet, from which hangs a profusion of German Ivy. Covering the house is some fine Ampelopsis. Hanging in the front porch is a nice flower basket and flanking the entrance and over the door is some fine Cobia Scandens. To one side of the house is a large pine tree. In this tree a box has been placed which a family of black squirrels have selected as their home. One of these squirrels has become so tame that Mrs. Mormann often feeds it out of her hand.

A UNIQUE IDEA.

Another feature of special interest was a high framework covered with wire netting and over which vines were growing profusely, which Mr. Mormann has erected alongside his neighbor's house. This will serve to hide the unsightly brick wall until the vines which his neighbor has planted have attained their growth.

A splendid lawn and garden is that of Major J. O. Thorne. The house is flanked on either side by a wide expanse of lawn, the borders and corners of which are planted to shrubs, roses and perennials. Shrubs and hardy perennials are also planted around the base of the house. At the rear and separated from the lawn by a privet hedge, is a fine kitchen garden. Around the garden are wire net fences backed by herbaceous borders. The kitchen garden proper is laid out in squares, Old Country style, with fruit trees planted in the corners of the plots. The tomatoes are trained on a trellis and pruned back to the spurs, the same as in greenhouses. To one side is the garage. When we consider that the garden had been only two years in existence, it was a splendid one.

A most energetic member of the society has been Hugh Johnson, 55 Radfow Street. His idea was to do away wherever possible with line fences. Facing the street his lawn is bordered with a Japanese ivy hedge. The house itself is well covered with vines, shrubbery and herbaceous plants, among them being some fine coladiums. Along the boundary lines are some handsome Norway maples. At the rear is a fine lawn with herbaceous border. A fine pine tree gives ample shade. A bird box has been placed well up the trunk, the entrance being large enough to accommodate a wren



A High Park Residence, that of Hugh Johnson, before Flowers had been Planted.—No. 1