

# A Small Garden Where Bold Effects Are Produced

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**A** GARDEN in a city lot about one hundred and twenty by sixty feet, where flowers are grown in profusion almost every month of the season, and where all the work is done by the owner, should have interest for every city dweller. When it is considered that on a lot of this size the owner, Mr. J. A. Ellis, M.L.A., 131 Stanley street, Ottawa, manages to grow enough peonies so that he can cut as many as one thousand to twelve hundred blooms at one time, the interest must certainly increase in the "Hows" and "Whys" of such profusion.

Don't conclude off hand that peonies occupy all the space devoted to flowers. If you visit this garden in July or September, as I did, you will be scarcely conscious of the real number of peony plants which it contains. And one of the reasons is due to that charming effect of the Coral-bells which so insistently demand our attention just in front of the foliage of the peonies, a foliage which is delightful as a background to the scarlet spikes of this little Siberian plant. Later in the summer again peony foliage serves as the base to give contrast to the scarlet tiger lilies which rise out from it as if they owned the whole

border and were trying to make their beholders blind to the fact that they were but symbionts in the possession of this border with the peonies. And so we have the peonies not only beautiful in their glory of bloom but serviceable also later on in the ways just mentioned. Delightful as the effects are which Mr. Ellis produces by a well regulated system of inter and double planting of his borders they must be passed without further comment or space will not be available to emphasize several other special features of this city lot.

## THE PROBLEM OF EACH GARDEN

In most parts of the world, each home, each city lot in particular, presents in many cases a distinct problem to its owner when he begins to plant it with a view of making his home a "real home" and one of the best lots of his neighborhood. In the very beginning of his gardening career Mr. Ellis realized that the problem which his lot presented was a personal one. While not by any means unique it was not a common problem, and still less a desirable one.

The problem simply stated was practically just such a one as any one of the readers of *The Canadian Horticulturist*

may be facing. Therefore, let us put it thus:—You wish to grow flowers, to do all the work of gardening yourself, to have the place always looking nice, and to have the best of things growing in the most luxuriant manner; but down one side of your lot is an ugly board fence, and a bare shed belonging to your neighbor. You cannot plant vines to cover it because he does not wish you to do that, you cannot plant trees to screen it because your lot is not large enough to grow both trees and flowers, and yet you must hide that eyesore and achieve your desires. What are you going to do about it? This is not all the problem, but enough to show the point. What did Mr. Ellis do?

We can only partly answer the question. Mr. Ellis, having determined upon the policy of having the maximum quantity of flowers with a minimum amount of work (not because he disliked the work, but because he is city treasurer, a member of the Ontario Legislature, and a very busy man), together with the production of a nice effective lot when viewed from the street, found that he had to work out his own method of screening that objectionable board fence and building. This we shall come to



Artistic Effect and Utility are Combined in This Rustic Arrangement

Notice the wealth of bloom obtained by Mr. Ellis from the plants of *Clematis Jackmanii*. The necessary but rather ugly outhouse is made a pleasing feature in this garden. The little conservatory on the left is the one in which Mr. Ellis has had distinct success growing orchids as described by him in recent issues of *The Canadian Horticulturist*.