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# CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL

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**In the Garden**

THIS number of our journal presents to our readers in article and illustration some of the most beautiful gardens of Canada, and shows how the best may be made of our native soil. It must have been a garden in which humanity began its course, for we turn so naturally to flowers for comfort, work and solace. Perhaps, there is no toil in the world which so readily and fragrantly rewards the toiler, as the most ancient occupation of all. In the older provinces of the East may be seen some beautiful gardens, and Ontario has some exquisite flower spots. But, in the extreme West, there is a setting which will make the lover of great gardens gasp with envy. Surely the Province of the Pacific will some day show us the fairest gardens in the Dominion! There is no companionship more restful and rare than that of the flowers, and the poet of the garden was wise who wrote:

"A garden is a lovesome thing, God wot!  
 Rose plot,  
 Fring'd pool,  
 Fern'd grot—  
 The veriest school  
 Of peace; and yet the fool  
 Contends that God is not—  
 Not God! in gardens! when the eve is cool?  
 Nay, but I have a sign;  
 'Tis very sure God walks in mine."

\* \* \*

**Petticoat Legislation**

IN the United States, one of the legislatures has passed laws against the wearing of the "harem skirt" and actually believes that the women of the State will be obedient to the instructions. After all, these gentlemen of a United States legislative body seem to be unduly officious. The matter of feminine garb is hardly the subject for public legislation. Canadian legislators have more common-sense and gallantry than to venture on any such enactments. They leave the ladies to decide on their own fashions, and deal with more important questions than hats or skirts. The subject of reciprocity or railway legislation has always appealed more to the dignity of our members of parliament than topics of merely "modistic" importance.

This is a matter which should be considered seriously by the ladies of the suffragette belief, for it is unwarrantable impertinence on the part of the gentlemen from Illinois to declare what shall be deemed decorous and becoming in feminine apparel. How happy we should be that we live in a land where woman is free, and man is unequal to the task of legislating as to feminine fashions. The garment in question may be graceful or the reverse. The fact is, that man has no business to attempt to decide concern-

ing it, and that his effort to play the tyrant in all matters relating to feminine raiment should be instantly and firmly discouraged. As a matter of history, man's efforts in this direction have not been most happy, and it is well for him to refrain from criticism. However hideous the harem skirt or the Russian blouse may be, they are not any more offensive than the "bowler" hat or the costume of the football player. Let the women of Illinois unite to prevent the men of that State from wearing ties of a bright blue shade!

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**Stern Requirements**

OTHER legislation of a more practical order has been put in force in Norway. An act has been passed to the effect that any woman wishing to marry must first present to the authorities a certificate showing that she is competent in the arts of cooking, sewing, knitting and embroidery. This is, indeed, stringent legislation, which makes the heart of the unmarried woman become troubled. There is curious wording, also, in the Norwegian news. Does it really mean that the woman is the more anxious member of the matrimonial duet? Does she, like Priscilla the Puritan maiden, remark: "Why don't you speak for yourself, John?"

If the Norway maiden is of this impetuous order, it is no wonder that she is forced to show certificates of domestic worthiness ere the blushing bridegroom is given to her lot. This formidable list of qualifications, however, brings to mind the practical wisdom of our "foremothers." How many of us can cook, sew, knit or embroider? I am afraid that

the knitting especially is one of the lost arts and will not return any, too soon to the household list. The factories have, in some respects, made certain domestic accomplishments hardly necessary.

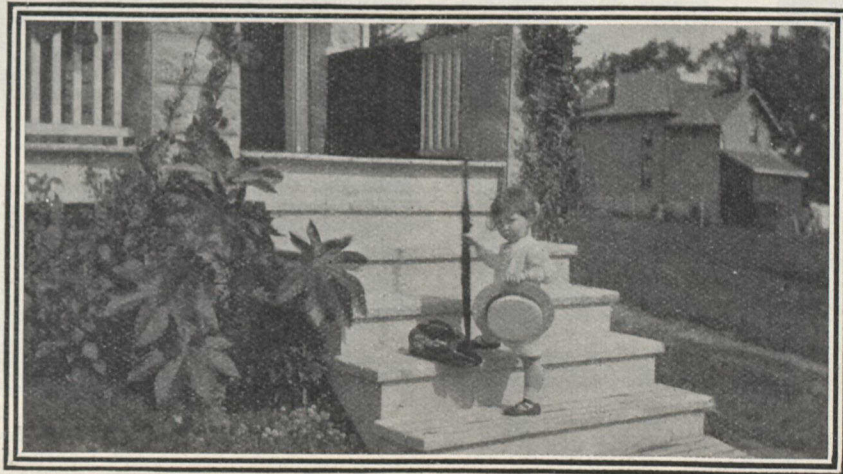
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**Municipal Improvements**

THE good roads movement is being taken up with vigor and prosecuted by those citizens who are really interested in the welfare and good ap-

pearance of the community. Bad sidewalks and poor roads are too often treated in the local press as matter for amusement rather than for shame. There is no excuse in some towns of Ontario for the indifference to the appearance of the town nor for the apparent ignoring of the commercial importance of good roads.

Yet there are many communities thoroughly alive to the importance of looking well and having all approaches to the town or village in good condition. A few thoroughly energetic and up-to-date citizens can work wonders in two or three years in the appearance of the town. We are too often locally neglectful and leave our gateways, gardens lot. This formidable list of qualifications, however, bring to



BACK TO HIS HAPPY HOME