

border full of flowers, they are nice, of course, but are apt to get in the way of games; also, flowers would be at their best in holiday time.

Again, it is not everyone who can grow plants, indoors or out. For some they flourish, with no trouble, while others, like myself, cannot even keep a pot of parsley alive!

What I regret in this country is the shortness of the season, and its beauty being so short-lived. We see the flower-season at home (out of doors) starting in February with the snowdrops, and going on with one thing after another, till the end of November sometimes.

I am afraid, Dame, I've given no ideas, but really, I have not got any!

GERTRUDE LLOYD-JONES.

Burford, Ont.

Begin with the Homes—Preserve the Woods.

Canada should surely be beautified, and made the most of—now especially, since so many people's thoughts are turning to Canada. In the Old Land, they are considering Canada more and more, and it is surely a proof of this, and a great compliment to us, that our next Governor-General is to be a Prince of the royal blood, thus making Canada the first overseas Dominion to be so honored.

It seems to me that the chief reason—and it is a reason which embraces so much—why our country should be beautified, is for the added respect we should have for it, and, consequently, for ourselves. And I think it is the "home" which should receive the first attention, as that is the most near and personal thing,—but the improvements can all go hand-in-hand. An attractive and cozy home is the ideal place, makes everyone proud of it, and is a pleasure in itself, always. It tends to sociability, too, as all people like to invite people to their homes, and, in young people especially, this habit is apt to be more indulged in, if those homes are pleasing in appearance.

A beautiful or attractive home, does not necessarily mean a fine house by any means, but, rather, a comfortable and appropriate one, as, what does not look comfortable and convenient, can never look well. Beauty consists, I think, in harmony, proportion and appropriateness.

The surroundings and grounds about the house should receive their due attention; it is very pleasant work, and will more than repay anyone for the trouble.

Have trees—trees everywhere, shrubby, and some flowers,—of course, always arranged with an idea at the back of it, as it were; but they are graceful things, and not too hard to "get to look right."

What could be more restful, or beautiful, than trees and green grass! How naked and unfinished any home looks which is so unfortunate as not to have any trees of any sort about it! Indeed, I think everyone in passing wonders what kind of people live in that house.

There should be plenty of trees, too, along the fences throughout the farm; they improve it in every way, as well as adding so greatly to the beauty and value in appearance. One of our Collegiate teachers, and he was a man who loved and studied nature, said that if a man planted a row of trees all around his farm, and two rows through the middle, his yield of grain would be greater than without them. This is accounted for, I suppose, by the fact that all vegetation tends to draw moisture and keep away frost. No doubt it is greatly because our timber is getting so much scarcer, that our climate is not so favorable as it used to be. It would surely be a good plan for every farmer to keep a portion of land just for the purpose of growing trees,—timber is so valuable, too,—but I think if this were done there should be some remuneration from the Government.

Our roadways are in need of better looking after—we evidently require a better system of roadwork. Old Country people always criticise our roads; I heard one genial Irishman say, in referring to a Canadian road, "the track yez call a road." People do like ease and convenience in getting about, and Canada, which is becoming more popular all the time, would be much more so if we had better roads. Besides the added comfort, the improvement to the appearance of the country would be wonderful.

The school yards should be made attractive, first and most, for education of the children, that being the time when all impressions are so strong. It is obvious, that the effect of having pretty trees about their grounds, and a well-ordered yard and playground, would be both pleasing and profitable to them. It would help, too, to make the country, as a whole, more beautiful and well-cared-for looking.

In speaking of farmers' homes and surroundings, I forgot the barns (naturally, perhaps), but it is wonderful the effect of a nice coat of paint on a barn. I was struck with this one summer, while in Dakota, where all the barns seemed to be painted. And all improvements will seem to add even more value than they really have, so that, if one should want to sell one's farm, it would seem to be worth almost twice as much.

The foregoing is almost all about improving our homes, etc., for the benefit to our own particular selves. However, I think that comes first, and, after that, we reach out naturally to the broader feeling, of pride in country.

Love of country! It always gives us a thrill when we read of what people have done for that! and when some of them have been banished from it, for some reason, how they have sighed for that "country"!

It ennobles a man (or woman), and seems to be the strength of some strong characters.

"They loved their land, because it was their own, An' would scorn to give, aught other reason why, Would shake hands with a king upon his throne, And think it kindness, to His Majesty."

MARGARET J. BIRRELL.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Let Us Not Tolerate Ugliness Because We Are Accustomed to It.

Canada in itself is a beautiful country, but man, with his works, has made it, in parts, hideous and unsightly.

Canada is a nation in the making, and we, as nation builders, must not forget "the beautiful."

To beautify Canada means to beautify the homes. From where will our country be judged? From the public highways. Then, let every farmer go out in the highway in front, or by his own particular home, and note where improvements may be made. We become accustomed to ugly objects, passing them day by day, taking no notice of what a stranger would notice at once.

Neatness, though it goes a long way, does not always mean beauty. Homes that are perfectly neat, are sometimes very ugly, with bare walls and treeless yards. Everybody loves trees. Then plant trees, and plant trees. Get everyone interested in this, especially the children. Have birthday trees—that is a tree (or shrub, or vine) planted on each birthday of every member of the family. No expense is needed to purchase these trees, as no better trees can be had than our own native hard maple, hickory, walnut, elm, etc. For shrubs, we have the sumach, dogwood and juneberry; for vines, wild clematis, grapevine, and bitter-sweet. A few evergreens should be planted for winter beauty.

Grassy lawns, with borders of flowers, are always beautiful. Sunflowers, nasturtiums, etc., can be used to cover unsightly places.

In towns, it requires united efforts to gain effects, but in the country, each may consult his own taste without danger of clashing with his neighbor. In fact, it is better to have a difference, as it would be monotonous to have all farm homes alike.

Do we all recognize the power of influence? Two boys were sent to a neighbor's for flowers. On returning, they both exclaimed on the beauty of the neighbor's home. This neighbor has only a plain frame house, but with flowers and vines at the front and sides. At the back, between the house and barn, the ground is laid out in alternate rows of flowers and vegetables, arranged with taste, and the effect is beautiful. The younger boy has this winter been studying Rennie's catalogue and proposing "That we have a garden like Mrs. F."

He Bought Her a 1900 Washer

One of Our Readers Tells How Her Husband Learned

What Washday Means to a Woman.

Dear Editor:—Most men have no realization of what "wash-day" means to a woman. My husband is one of the best men that ever lived, but he laughed when I asked him one day to get me a 1900 Gravity Washer. I told him it would wash a tubful of clothes in six minutes. "Why, wife," said he, "a washing machine is a luxury. And, besides, there's no better exercise than rubbing clothes on a washboard. It's good for the back. I think we had better wait till we get the farm paid for before fooling away money on such new-fangled things as washing machines."

That settled it. I gave up the idea and kept right on washing in the same old way. I confess I felt hurt, but I knew John had no notion how hard it was to do the washing for a family of five—three of them little tots. I am not very strong and the washing, with all my other work, finally got the better of me. I had quite a sick spell, and after things had gone at sixes and sevens for nearly two weeks, I suggested to John that he had better do the washing. We couldn't hire a girl for love or money, and the situation was desperate. So one morning he started in. My! what a commotion there was in the kitchen. From my bedroom I occasionally caught glimpses of poor John struggling with that mountain of dirty clothes. If ever a man had all the "exercise" he wanted, my husband was that man! Couldn't help feeling sorry for him, and yet it made me laugh, for I remembered how he made fun of me when I hinted so strongly for a 1900 Gravity Washer. When he finally got the clothes done and on the line he was just about "all in."

That evening John came to my room and said kind of sheepishly: "What's the name of the firm that makes those Washers you were telling me about?" I looked up their advertisement and found the following address:

F. A. N. Bach, Manager.
The 1900 Washer Co.,
357 Yonge St., Toronto, Canada.

That's all he said, but he lost no time in sending for their Free Washer Book. The book came in due time, and with it an offer to send the 1900 Gravity Washer on thirty days' free trial. My husband jumped at the chance to try the Washer without having to spend a cent. "We'll have four weeks' use of the Washer anyway, even if we don't decide to keep it," he said. So he told the company to send on the Washer.

It was sent promptly, all charges paid, and the 1900 Washer Company offered to let us pay for it in little easy payments. The next week I felt well enough to use it. It is the nicest Washer I ever saw, and it almost runs itself. Takes only six minutes to wash a tubful, and the garments come out spotlessly clean.

We were all delighted with the Washer, and wrote to the company that we would keep it and accept their easy payment terms of 50 cents a week. We paid for it without ever missing the money, and wouldn't part with the Washer for five times its cost.

If women knew what a wonderful help the 1900 Gravity Washer is, not one would be without it. It saves work and worry and doctors' bills. Takes away all the dread of wash-day. I feel like a different woman since I have quit the use of the washboard. If any woman's husband objects to buying one of these labor-saving machines, let him do just one big washing by hand-rubbing on the old-fashioned washboard, and he will be only too glad to get you a 1900 Gravity Washer.

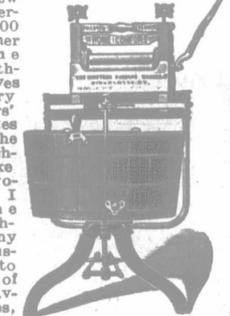
Anybody can get one on free trial by first writing for the Washer Book. Don't be talked into buying any other machine—there are many imitations, but none "just as good" as the 1900 Gravity Washer.

Excuse me for writing such a long letter, but I hope, Mr. Editor, you will print it for the benefit of the women readers of your valuable paper.

Sincerely yours, MRS. J. H. SMITH.



John's Busy Day.



The secret of the easy operation of the 1900 Washer is in the peculiar "S" shaped links, which no other washer can have; then it has no iron to come in contact with the clothes, and also has a removable tub, which is a great convenience.

The above offer is not good in Toronto, Winnipeg or Montreal and suburbs. Special arrangements are made for these districts.

Advertisement for The Noxon Co., Ltd. featuring a large illustration of a cultivator and a smaller illustration of a seeding line. Text includes: "The Noxon Co., Ltd. INGERSOLL, ONT. The 'Old Reliable' Cultivating and Seeding Line The Famous Noxon Hoosier Drill A Strong, Efficient Cultivator Our 'Buffalo Pitts' Disc Harrow is unequalled for efficiency, durability, lightness of draft, absence of neck-weight. Send your enquiry direct to Ingersoll."