



A Scene on "Poplar Crescent" farm—Hardisty, Alta.

ceases to flourish and turns brown.

This process of exhaustion continues, other patches of brown appear, and in each case practically the whole finer grasses have perished from lack of food. The green grass exists only where, from causes, there chances to be a larger store of food for the plants; and in this way lawns become weedy, patchy and unsightly.

When the scythe was nearly always used, the exhaustion and deterioration was not so rapid, because the whole of the grass was not removed from the lawn in the operation of collecting it, the smaller particles of grass escaping the teeth of grass rake and remaining to act as a mulch in hot weather and at all times serving as a source of food supply—though small—for the grass plants.

When Lawn-mowers are Used.

But in these days of the lawn-mower careful gardeners, who have consideration for the welfare of the grasses constituting the lawn, have been careful to refrain from removing all the grass shaven by the mower. The box is taken from the mowing-machine, and the grass is allowed to remain upon the lawn, especially during a period of heat and drought.

Occasionally the lawn, as a consequence, does not look so clear and brilliant; but in a short time, when other lawns are brown and patchy, the lawns upon which the grass was judiciously allowed to remain continues to look fresh and green.

The Importance of Manure.

The best lawns undoubtedly are those which are considered in the above way, and which, in addition, receive periodical dressings of manure in one form or another. The finer grasses are maintained in strength and beauty thereby, and successfully compete for life with their stronger-growing kindred, the result being lawns perfect in their clothing of green, rich and bright in tint, free from daisies, plantains, and dandelions.

Lawns which receive such careful attention with regard to nourishment are not likely to be spoiled by the three objectionable plants mentioned, and they are jealousy excluded therefrom; or, if perchance present, they are diligently cleared by means of spud, old table-fork, or specially-prepared lawn-sand.

It is thus seen that there are essential points in the maintenance of good lawns, and they may be summarised as follows:

1. Daisies, plantains, dandelions, and other coarse plants should be cleared from the turf.
2. The lawn should not be mown too closely in hot or dry weather, and the grass should be allowed to remain on the ground occasionally.
3. Apply a dressing of manure—arti-

ficial or otherwise—each autumn, winter or spring as may be most convenient. I shall have something further to say on this subject next issue.

Dairy Farming and Soil Fertility.

By Professor Long.

It has frequently been stated that farmers who sell milk rob the soil of its fertility. This is untrue both in substance and in fact. It would be just as reasonable to assert that the sale of wheat robbed the soil of its fertility.

It is true that if farmers continuously fed their cattle on foods which the farm produces and on nothing else, or made a practice of growing wheat continually on the same land without supplying manure, there would be no fertility to remove. We must take things as they are and treat our subject rationally. My desire in these remarks is to show,

as simply as I can, that instead of impoverishing the soil the dairy farmer or small cow-keeper gradually improves it. There was never a time in the history of modern dairy farming—and I speak as one who well remembers its inception—when cows were fed with such liberality as is the case today. Grass was regarded as quite sufficient as a summer food, and mangels, straw, hay, and small quantities of bran or crushed oats formed a liberal winter ration. A cow was regarded as remarkable if she gave 600 gallons, although I believe not one man in a hundred ever measured the milk.

Where crops and stock are grown continuously on the farm and carted off, the farmer is bound to fail unless he replaces the fertility which has been removed. This fact is so obvious that it may appear absurd to state it, but it is just what those who tell us that milk selling and cheesemaking impoverish the soil ignore. Successful farming is based on the

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