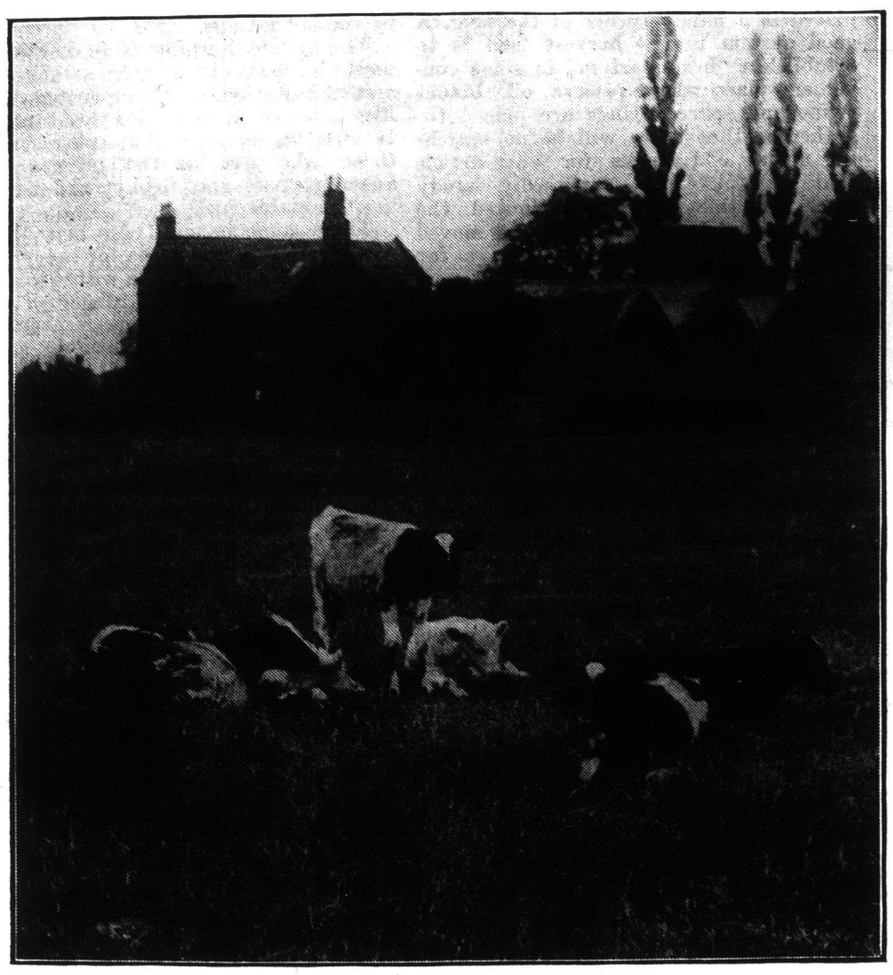
Land left in a dirty state is encouraging to the propagation of insect life. Weeds and old cultivated vegetation are used as breeding places by many kinds of insects. The old trash left on the garden affords an excellent hiding place, and the sooner it is cleared away the better the prospects are in keeping down the number of the pests by discouraging them right at the start of the season.

The Making of Insecticides

Paris green may be used in the proportion of 4 ounces to 40 gallons of water, with about half a pound of fresh lime. Arsenate of lead is preferred by some gardeners owing to the fact that it does not burn the leaves and is less likely to be washed off by rain. Powdered arsenate of lead is used in the proportion of two pounds to four gallons of water. A very good poison mixture is made up in the proportion of twenty pounds of bran, half a pound of Paris green, one quart of molasses, and two or three gallons of water. Mix the bran and Paris green dry; mix the molasses and water together until the former is dissolved, then wet the bran mixture with same and see that the bran is thoroughly dampened.

Sucking insects cannot be controlled by the ordinary stomach poisons as described above, as they obtain their sustenance through their beaks by which they pierce the surface of the leaves, etc., so that it will be readily seen that any poison on the surface of the plants is out of harm's way as their beaks are thrust past its range of influence. A good preparation for the destruction of these latter pests is Kerosene Emulsion, which is made up as follows: Two gallons kerosene (coal oil), one gallon rain water, half a pound of soap. The soap should be cut up fine and put into the water, the mixture heated and the kerosene added, the whole being thoroughly churned up for five minutes. This mixture, when cool, will become a kind of jelly and is a stock solution. When using, dilute one part of the kerosene emulsion with nine parts of water.



More profitable than a war garden

The Cutworm

The cutworm becomes a great menace at times, and a knowledge of its habits is a valuable acquisition to those engaged in horticulture and agriculture. This insect is about the most destructive of any in the prairie provinces. The majority of the eggs are hatched out by the middle of April. The cutworms remain below the surface of the ground during the day, rising to the surface at night to feed. They prefer to feed a little below the surface of the ground, and in dry years they are able to do much more damage, as in the dry soil they pass more easily from plant to plant, whereas in wet soil they are considerably retarded in their operations and have to feed above ground. Their liking for plant food is very extensive and includes grains, roots, alfalfa, and all kinds of vegetable crops.

The moths, which lay their eggs throughout the months of August and the larger part of September, select weedy summer fallows, especially those with a rough surface. A field that is smooth is less likely to be infested with cutworms, as the moths choose the clods to be found in roughly cultivated fields under which to lay their eggs. Summer fallows should be kept free from green growth during the cutworms' egg-laying period, as the aim of the moths is to lay their eggs near green growth.

For the control of these insects, the mixture of poisoned bran, described above, is recommended. The mixture should be scattered on and around the infested areas late in the afternoon so that it will not be dried out by the sun and will be in good condition and attractive to the pests when they come up to feed at night.

The Colorado Beetle

When the potato crop is coming up, a sharp lookout should be kept for the appearance of the above insect, as once they get a start on the potato crop the leaves of the plants rapidly disappear with resultant loss. It is not advisable to wait until the vines show injury, but to start spraying at the first appearance of the bugs. The Paris green mixture as described above is the recommended remedy for the attacks of the potato beetle. As the eggs are not all hatched at the same time, it is necessary to repeat the spraying at given intervals in order to thoroughly rid the crop of the insects.

Aphids

These plant lice, as before mentioned, cannot be controlled by poisonous sprays applied to the surface of the leaves, but contact mixtures such as Kerosene Emulsion, as previously described.

Harvest Mobilization

The cutting, stooking and threshing of the grain crops are operations that will ere long be upon us with the usual suddenness of all farm operations. At such a time delay means great anxiety, and lost time in the harvest field is some-