ABOLISH THE **OLD BACK YARD**

Make All the Ground Around Your Home Attractive.

RUBBISH, NO DISEASE.

Co-operation Between Owners and Tenanta Would Do a Great Deal Toward Changing Present Conditions. It Would Also Increase Values.

Why was the back yard ever invented? Why need there be a rear and a front to a bouse? And why have most homes two rears and no front? The rear of a house was originally designed us a place where coal was delivered, where waste was removed and where deliveries from tradesmen were made. But in city bomes the garbage and the ashes go out the front door, and deliveries are made there. In fact, it by necessity has become the back door. And what is the back yard? Usually a place for weeds to grow, a place for rubbish to accumulate, a place to hang out the wash, a breeding place for mosquitoes and files and an eyesore to about half the population of tenants, who day by day, month after month, have to look out upon it. So states the Title Insurance News.

If ever any one pays the penalty for a sin it is the owner of real estate, residential property, who is carrying the burden of the back yard. How does the owner of such property pay the penalty, and can be escape it? Rear rooms bring less income than street rooms because of existing conditions. Yet why not make rear rooms front rooms and correspondingly increase the income from residential property?

Take, for example, a block of houses running from one avenue to another. Backing up to each other there are about thirty-four houses, twenty feet in width. There is a stretch of open land between the two rows of houses about 700 feet long and approximately 100 feet wide.

Let us imagine, if we can, that the owners of these seventy pieces of



A DESCLATE BACK YARD.

property got their bends together and decided that they would place this vacant space in the hands of two or three or five of their number as trustees for a period of five years, each contributing alike to the cost, and that fences be torn down, rubbish cleared up and the plot turned into a miniature park and playground-in short. that the rear of these houses become the front What would happen? Counting the number of rooms facing the back yard as about the same as those facing the street and that there is a difference in the rental income of about 20 per cent. It would be safe to assume that by making such a change the income of the rear rooms facing our imagined ministure park would bring in an additional income of 20 per cent in excess of their usual rental value, which on the entire property would show an increase of possibly from 5 to 10 per cent.

Not taking into consideration the increased income, would not such properties always find occupants in prefer ence to others that could not offer this attractive feature? Would we not be providing an ideal playground for the children, taking them from the streets with its dangers? Would not such retreats afford comfort, afternoons and evenings, to the occupants of the room -men and women who must pass the greater part of their summers in the

The average summer population in the seventy houses does not fall far short of 1.000 persons. By renting a portion of the space for the privilege of serving ice cresm and soda fountain drinks there would be sufficient income from the privilege to more than

pay for the upkeep of the plot.

Any step that will help make city life more attractive will help to maintain values. Does not this suggestion offer a remedy for one of the causes of decreasing income from properties in certain cities?

Flower Bedecked Windows.

Here is an idea which could be adapted to the beautifying of towns with great advantage. The municipality of Paris offers prizes for the most attractive window decorations by using blooming plants, there being several classes in which competitors may strive-that is, single windows, whole house fronts and the fronts of mercantile establishments.

************** GOIN' TO TOWN.

It used to be that dear old dad Drove Dobbin into town. It was a rough and rocky road, First up a hill, then down.

He used to pull way out the road When he would meet a man. Hen he, "Th' roads is heavy, an' I'll give him all I can."

Now dad has got a red machine. He whirts along in style. He leaves behind a string of dust. That stretches half a mile.

And when he meets his neighbors, He burts his fiving wedge-

He scatters them to right and left And makes am hint th' nesign. —Hetter Roads.

WANT BIG ROAD BONDS. Over \$500,000 to Be Proposed In Texas

Counties. The taxpayers of a number of counties and precincts of Texas are petitioning their respective commissioners' courts to call elections to vote upon the proposition of issuing road bonds in large amounts.

It is proposed to issue \$300,000 of these bonds in Harris county, \$120,000 Wood county, \$25,000 in Refugio county, \$19,000 in Hamilton county. \$20,000 in Orange county, \$40,000 in Medina county and \$150,000 in Webb

Starters of Good Roads.

If bighways are an evolution from the primary paths made by animals and men the first roadmakers did not make their paths straight certainly, and many a road today is a monument to the leaders in roadmaking of the long ugo. Nevertheless it is said that some animals, the buffalo especially, were pretty fair engineers. They had an eye for grade, which cannot be said of some of their successors. In the west engineers bunting pathways for railroads are said to have inrgely followed buffalo trails.

Heavy Materials For Auto Roads. The excessive cost of keeping macadam roads in repair has led the commissioners in some countles in Pennsylvania to contract for the construction of roads with hard surfaced materinin.

It is claimed that the swift running automobiles suck up the finer materials

Prosperity Follows Good Roads, You show me any community in this or any other state where there are good roads, said a speaker at a good roads convention, and I will show you a community where there are no paint famished buildings or tottering leartos, a community where there is the air of prosperity, thrift and progree-

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C. W. MOORE, Register.

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