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FARMERS' COLUMN.

The Noxious Weeds of Eastern Canada.

TO PREVENT DISTRIBUTION.

To Destroy Common Varieties.

Department of Agriculture.

Ottawa, Aug. 25, 1904.

Weeds not only cause a great deal of unnecessary work and annoyance during the harvesting, threshing and cleaning of grain, but they sap the very vitality from the plants or crops grown. Impure seed, particularly of grasses and clovers, is largely responsible for the alarming spread of noxious seeds consequently it is always advisable to sow the best seed available.

Early maturing crops, such as clover hay, can be cut before the weed seeds mature, thus preventing the distribution of weeds. Summer cultivation of the stubble land, followed next season by a hoed crop properly cared for, will destroy all the weed seeds sufficiently near the surface to germinate.

To eradicate weeds it is important to know something of their nature and growth. Some excellent advice regarding the commoner varieties is given by Mr. Simpson Rennie, owner of the gold medal farm of Ontario.

The Canada Thistle and Perennial Sow Thistle.—These can be entirely killed in a single season by a properly worked corn or root crop. The main thing is to keep them from showing above ground. As soon as the thistle is allowed to grow up and develop leaves it commences to store away plant food in its underground stem and roots, so that by the time it is in full bloom it will have stored sufficient food to live through another season, no matter what cultivation is given the land. Where a summer fallow is resorted to there is no trouble in clearing the land of perennial thistles, either by shallow plowing or by using a cultivator with wide points on the teeth, going over the land at least once every three weeks until August.

Bind Weed.—This is a perennial and one of the most difficult weeds to eradicate. On account of its twining nature and deep roots it can scarcely be killed in a single season, even where the land is in a hoed crop. The only way to kill it thoroughly is with a summer fallow, worked every eight or ten days with a broad-shared cultivator.

Couch Grass.—To eradicate this troublesome perennial it is advisable to plow immediately after harvest, but not more than four or five inches deep, as the rootlets are near the surface. When the weather is dry, the roots can be gathered into rows by means of the harrow and sulky horse-rake. The spring-tooth cultivator is also very effective in drawing the roots to the surface where they are not so numerous as to block it up entirely. The roots collected should be allowed to dry and then burned. A well worked corn or root crop the next year will help materially in subduing the weed.

Ox-eye Daisy.—The daisy is most troublesome in pasture and sod land, but is not much seen in well cultivated fields. It may be got rid of by seeding only to clover, cutting this before the daisy seeds ripen, and plowing up the sod after the first crop.

False Flax, Pigeon Weed and Oenothera.—All these weeds start to grow in the fall and produce seed the next season. If fall wheat be left out of the rotation, they may be readily eradicated by regular summer cultivation after harvest thus germinating and destroying the seed.

Rag Weed.—By growing early maturing crops and plowing up the land immediately after the crops are off, the seed of the Rag Weed will be prevented from maturing, and in a few years this weed will be destroyed.

Wild Oats.—This is an annual which is very troublesome in some sections. It is best to work the land as soon as the crop is taken off, thus encouraging the seeds to germinate. The next season a hoed crop should be put in. The second spring the land should be sown with some grain without plowing and seeded down to grass. If the land is left in sod for three or four years most of the seed will have lost its germinating power.

Wild Mustard.—Although only an annual, this weed is very troublesome on account of the vitality of its seeds. They may lie in the ground

for years and yet, when brought to the surface will germinate. Thorough surface cultivation from harvest to time of freezing up, followed by a hoed crop the next spring will largely eradicate mustard. It may also be destroyed in grain crops by spraying with a two per cent. solution of copper sulphate at the rate of fifty gallons to the acre. If the mustard plants are in bloom a stronger solution will be necessary, say three to four per cent.

Although only a few of the noxious weeds are here mentioned, if the above methods are carried out they will destroy at the same time scores of other of less importance.

GHOST STORY FROM INDIA.

Its Truthfulness Vouched for by Two Women and a Man.

(London Globe.)

The latest ghost story is recorded in the Friend of Burmah and it is attested by several eye-witnesses, who saw the ghost, not during the night, as is usually the case, but in broad daylight. It happened in the Mon-yinzu quarter of Pakokku a few days ago. In that quarter of the town live a married couple; the husband's name is Maung Yun and his wife May Neafu. They had a little son two years old, who, after a serious illness, died. The baby was buried in the cemetery outside the town, his cradle serving as a coffin.

The father was much dejected at the loss of his little one, and, unable to repress his grief, went to the cemetery two days after the burial. It was about 8 o'clock in the morning. At the entrance of every Burmese burial place there is a zayat, or rest house, wherein people gather and chat and smoke and take shelter from the sun or rain whenever they accompany a funeral. On entering the graveyard Maung Yun was not a little surprised to see his son, or at least some one looking exactly like his son, playing in the zayat near the cradle. He was at first horror-struck but parental affection getting the upper hand, he approached the baby, and to his surprise he gave him one piece.

The boy took the coin readily, and offered not the least resistance when the father took him in his arms and carried him away. Maung Yun could make nothing out of it, but that the child had been buried alive and that somebody, attracted soon after by the sounds coming from the grave dug him out and placed him in the zayat. Full of joy, he carried his treasure home.

At the entrance of the town, and about a half a mile from his house he met a neighbor, Mah Sein Pwin, who, wondering at what he saw, screamed out: "Is that you, Ko Yun, carrying home your little son?" As soon as the child heard the voice he began moving about in his father's arms. Mah Sein Pwin and another woman came to take it, and a short struggle ensued between them and the boy, and Maung Yun suddenly lost his senses and fell heavily to the ground. The two women made a dash for the little one, but lo! nowhere was he to be found; he had disappeared completely, leaving no trace behind.

The unfortunate man was carried home by some kindly neighbors, but he was a long time recovering his senses. The child was a ghost, and the man had been carrying nothing but an apparition from the other world. That it appeared real enough, the two women are ready to swear, since they not only saw, but touched it. It was no smoke or vapor, but seemed to be flesh and bone. As soon as Maung Yun was well enough to explain how it had all happened, a hurried visit was made to the cemetery in the hope of perhaps seeing the boy in the zayat. But they were disappointed; neither child nor cradle was there, and the grave was exactly as it had been left on the burial day, not in the least disturbed.

A Financial Muddle.

Montreal, Aug. 27.—Leaving behind him a financial muddle that grows worse the more it is investigated, and hundreds of people bemoaning the loss of savings of years Rev. F. M. A. Charest, bursar of the Institution des Sœurs Muets, under the direction of the Clerics of St. Viator, a Roman Catholic order, has disappeared. His liabilities and those he has attached to the institution with which he was connected are estimated at from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

A Pupil's Ready Retort.

The principal of a Detroit high school tells the following anecdote: "One day at school I gave a bright boy a sum in algebra, and, although the problem was comparatively easy, he couldn't do it.

"I remarked, 'You ought to be ashamed of yourself. At your age George Washington was a surveyor.' "The boy looked me straight in the eyes and replied, 'Yes, sir; and at your age he was president of the United States.'"

WOOLEN MILLS.

Mr. Jonathan Hodgson Says Protection is Ample.

GOOD MANAGEMENT AND MODERN METHODS

Make the Mills He is Interested in Pay.

BUSINESS BETTER THAN UNDER THE FOSTER TARIFF.

Montreal, Aug. 27.—The other day an announcement was made that the Montreal woollen mills would close down every alternate week for an indefinite time, and the manager, Mr. Horsfall, attributed the cause to the preference on British goods. In view of that, Mr. Jonathan Hodgson, senior partner in the wholesale dry goods firm of Hodgson, Sumner & Co., who has for many years been largely interested in woollen manufacturing concerns, comes out with a counter-statement. Mr. Hodgson says that he has no hesitation in claiming that the present tariff affords ample protection for all woollen industries that are properly managed and that possess ample capital.

The trouble with too many Canadian mills is that they are devoted to the making of low grade goods, on which the profit is small and the competition keen. The tariff gives all the protection that could be expected if mills were confined to specialties, if they are properly equipped with modern machinery, and if they have plenty of capital. "Take the case of the Paton mills at Sherbrooke," observed Mr. Hodgson. "Under the high tariff of the Conservatives in the early nineties the \$100 shares of this company were selling as low as \$12.50. Today I should like to buy more of them at \$75. The company are paying a six per cent. dividend and improving their position steadily. Under Mr. John Turnbull's efficient management a high class of goods is being made, for which there is a steady demand. In the case of the Almonte woollen mills, in which I am also interested, experience justifies the same conclusion. The concern is prospering because it is devoted to special lines, which it is enabled to produce at the minimum of cost. Were the tariff any higher I should be disposed to sell my woollen shares, for we would have the experience of former years repeated—over-competition and loss of profits. It is well to remember that under the Foster tariff many many woollen mills succumbed to the pressure induced by competition and stock-watering. We should guard against any repetition of these evils."

"I feel as if I should fly to pieces. How often those words are on a woman's lips. They express to the uttermost the nerve-racked condition of the body, which makes life a daily martyrdom."

If this condition has come suddenly it would have been unbearable. But the transition was gradual. A little more drain each day of the vitality. Any woman would be glad to be rid of such a condition. Every woman tries to be rid of it. Thousands of such women have been cured by Dr. Pierce's treatment with his "Favorite Prescription" when local doctors had entirely failed to cure.

"Favorite Prescription" contains no opium, cocaine or other narcotic.

Of Interest to Farm Laborers.

The farm laborers' excursion from the maritime provinces has been arranged as follows:

From New Brunswick points north of Moncton to Campbellton, farm laborers should proceed to that point by local morning express, taking the Maritime Express west from Campbellton.

From Canadian Pacific Branch line points in New Brunswick and from Canada Eastern points, farm laborers will be carried to main line of Canadian Pacific on regular morning or afternoon express trains.

From St. John, N. B., westward over the Canadian Pacific main line, farm laborers will be carried on passenger extra trains, and their tickets will not be honored on any regular main line train.

As the going rate is nearly the same from all stations, farm laborers should go to ticket stations and get tickets before boarding trains. If any checked baggage, same should be plainly labelled with owner's name and home address; and any wearing apparel or articles wanted immediately on arrival at Winnipeg should be carried in hand grips and not checked.

On account of a very backward spring and late seeding, the wheat crop of Manitoba and the northwest is this year a couple of weeks later in maturing.

Advices from the Manitoba government state that the cutting has now commenced and twelve thousand men will be required to assist in the harvesting, and as soon as threshing commences fully three thousand more will be able to find employment.

SETS HEATHER AFIRE.

People of Scotland Aroused and Indignation Meetings Being Held.

Sydney, N. S., Aug. 28.—Reverend Clarence McKinnon, of St. Andrew's church, who has just returned from Scotland, said in his sermon tonight that the judgment of the house of lords in respect to Scottish churches whereby more than \$50,000,000 of property previously held by 1,100 ministers is handed over to twenty-four ministers who claimed they were rightful owners, was most startling ever given in a British law court and of such stupendous moment that its effect upon the people of Scotland was simply astounding.

He said the decision was intolerable and in contravention of British sense of fair play and justice. Never was the public mind in Scotland roused to such high state of excitement. The judgment was atrocious. He said the people of Canada could only gather the most faint idea from the cabled news of the effect this judgment has had upon the people of Scotland. Meetings were already being held and storms of protest made against the action of the house of lords.

He contended that the law lords were wrong in their interpretation of principles governing the union between Free and United churches, that there was no violation of the trust. The crisis, he said, was a momentous one and the fire of indignation was burning in the heather as it never had done before.

EMPIRE'S WHEAT SUPPLY.

Will Soon be Independent of Foreign Aid.

London, Aug. 27.—Mr. G. Broomall, editor of the Corn Trade News, writing to The Times, says India's wheat shipment for the present week not only exceeds that of the Argentine or Russian quota severally, but the contributions of the Americans and Canada combined. The figures of the principal source of supply since the opening of the current cereal year three weeks ago have some value as to the indications of what may happen, for it seems now as if the British Empire were about to prove itself practically independent of foreign aid for its bread supply. The 26,000,000 quarters of wheat which the motherland requires annually may, under conceivable circumstances, be forthcoming during the current season from India, Canada and Australia. It is particularly noteworthy that this result has been brought about without any special inducement, such as the present high prices, for when the crops in these countries were planted wheat was quoted very cheaply.

MARLBOROUGH FOR CANADA.

Belief in Ottawa That He Will Succeed Lord Minto.

Ottawa, Aug. 25.—It is believed here that the Canadian State Department has been given to understand the Duke of Marlborough will be the next governor general of Canada. Ottawa is looking forward with interest to the advent of the first American Vicereine at Rideau Hall.

It is expected that such an appointment would, in a special way have a favorable effect upon the good relations of the United States and Canada. The Duke is known to have been qualifying for the post in the Colonial Office.

Lord Minto will not sail for some weeks yet. He leaves Ottawa tomorrow for the west. He proposes to emulate the equestrian performances of some American public men. He will ride from Edmonton to Q'Appelle on horseback, a distance of five hundred miles. He will have a small escort of Northwest Mounted Police.

The country is not unfamiliar to him, as he was over it in the half-breed rebellion in 1885 as a member of Gen. Middleton's staff.

Lifebuoy Soap—disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a safeguard against infectious diseases.

SOLID FOR LAURIER.

People of the West Approve of Government's Policy.

GLAD TO HAVE THE GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC.

Strong Liberal Contingent After Next Election.

"There is a very strong feeling in favor of the present government through the west from Winnipeg to the coast. Its general policy has given satisfaction to the people, and from what I have seen there, I should judge that there will be a strong representation of Western Liberals sent to next parliament."

So said W. V. Duffie, of Messrs. Vineberg & Co., Montreal, who has just returned from a long business trip throughout the Canadian West.

The people of Manitoba and the Territories were especially pleased with the government's immigration policy which was doing so much to fill up their vacant lands in an unprecedentedly fast manner, and with an excellent class of settlers. This was in no small degree building up the prosperity of the west and naturally made the people look with favor upon the government which is giving such practical proof of its activity in advancing the interests of the country.

The people of the west, said Mr. Duffie, were also much pleased with the prospect of soon getting the Grand Trunk Pacific into their country, to give them increased transportation, as well as the benefits of competition. The general opinion was that the government had made an excellent bargain, and one decidedly in the interests of the prairie settlers, as well as the rest of Canada.

In the Territories, Mr. Duffie found a strong feeling that the time was at hand when they should be erected into provinces and given local autonomy. He, however, did not think this would give the Conservatives the support they hoped for out of it, because the general opinion seemed to be that when the proper time came the Laurier government would see that the Territories got their deserts. In fact the desire for local autonomy, he thought, would rather prove a source of strength to the Liberal interests in the Territories than otherwise.

In fact from his observations throughout the West, Mr. Duffie had come to the conclusion that next election would see a strong Liberal contingent from the West on the Speaker's right at Ottawa.

The whole country seemed to be prosperous, and when he left Winnipeg, some two weeks ago there was every prospect of an excellent harvest, no black rust having then shown itself. Mr. Duffie was inclined to regard the reports of the damage from this cause as a good deal exaggerated, although from advices he had received, there was no doubt that in some sections the rust was causing a good deal of damage.

TO RUIN JAPS' TRADE.

Secret of Russia's War on Far East Shipping.

London, Aug. 27.—According to reports, says a Russian correspondent of the Times, the attitude of the St. Petersburg government towards British far east shipping interests is mainly the outgrowth of the determination of Russia to do her utmost to injure Japanese foreign trade. It is well known in Russia that Great Britain takes an enormous per cent. of Japan's imports and exports, and it is reasoned that a severe economic blow can be dealt at Japan through intimidating British shippers into the abandonment of their Japanese trade. Russia, it is said, would regard it as of comparative importance to break up the shipments of absolute contraband to her enemy. Her endeavour is to bring about great economic distress in the country whose enemies, so far, she has been unable to overcome. It is the general trade of Japan, and not merely the trade in ordinary war materials, which is the object of Russia's attack. By taking this course she hopes to so discredit both in Great Britain and Japan the alliance between the two countries, showing the British that it is not worth their while to jeopardize their friendly relations with Russia for the sake of their Japanese ally, and at the same time showing the Japanese that Great Britain is too timid to maintain her own rights, to say nothing of helping the Japanese.