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DANGEROUS WEEDS

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has recently issued two colored pictures of weeds, which are the first of a series being prepared with the idea of familiarizing every farmer in the province with the more common dangerous weeds. One picture represents perennial sow thistle and the other Canada thistle. Neither of these weeds is at present common in the province, and by making use of the principle of "forewarned is forearmed" the department hopes to keep the province clear of many such noxious weeds. These illustrations are posted up on all the agricultural notice boards provided by the department in every town and village in Saskatchewan, and every farmer should make it his business to become familiar with these dangerous weeds, so that when any odd plant shows up it can be immediately destroyed. Another pamphlet issued shows the advantages of early fall cultivation. A chart shows that in 1911 the yield of wheat on early fall plowing was 25 bushels 7 pounds, while that on late fall plowing was 23 bushels 31 pounds, an increase in favor of the former of 1 bushel 36 pounds. In 1913 the same holds true, the increase being 1 bushel 12½ pounds. In 1914 early and late disking as well as early and late plowing were tested, and in each case the early cultivation gave better returns. In the former case the increase was 1 bushel 10 pounds, and in the latter 3 bushels 2 pounds. By early is meant approximately three weeks between each treatment. Commenting on the results the pamphlet says that "proper cultivation, done early in the fall, which checks evaporation and puts the soil in condition to absorb and retain autumn rains and the melting snow of spring, invariably results in increased yields."

DON'TS FOR DUCK RAISERS

Don't keep two or three different kinds of ducks. Choose one variety and breed for quality.

Don't try to raise ducklings on whole wheat, cracked corn or commercial chick feeds. If used at all, these feeds should be well cooked, for, ordinarily, ducks do not consume enough grit to grind dry grain.

Don't try, by mixing it with their food, to force ducks to eat more grit than they want.

Don't be afraid of overfeeding. Ducks should be fed four or five times daily.

Don't omit fresh vegetables and green stuff from their diet.

Don't allow the feed to stand from one meal to the next and expect ducks to be satisfied with it.

Don't give ducks sour feed, as it is liable to cause convulsions.

Don't forget plenty of clean, fresh water, and give them a chance to rest in the shade.

Don't let their coops get damp and filthy.

Making Over Rural Schools

Continued from Page 7

two weeks, in an automobile, he visits the fifteen schools, looks at the work since the last visit, makes suggestions, and leaves instructions for work until his next visit. There is no type-form work, but the pupils learn to do things in the right way while making something that they are glad to have when it is made.

A woman from the same institution goes to each school each two weeks and directs and demonstrates work in sewing and cooking. I have seen results that were wholly unbelievable until I saw what the girls did in both sewing and cooking. The equipment is meager but adequate.

A teacher of music from the same institution goes the rounds of the schools once in two weeks, and takes a Victrola with him. He goes out afternoons, and

tive than city school life. The zeal of the country children over their school and school-home life makes their city cousins envy them their rural luxuries instead of their envying their city cousins their city life.

ACTIVITY IN MANITOBA

The new minister of agriculture for Manitoba, Hon. Valentine Winkler, is already giving practical proof of his interest in his new duties. Indications point to a very progressive policy being engaged in by his department. In co-operation with the Agricultural College a war on weeds, which have unfortunately taken such a hold on the province, is being mapped out. It is intended to publish bulletins and posters to be distributed to every farmer describing dangerous weeds, and outlining the most practical and effective means of controlling these pests. The Manitoba



Teacher giving field lesson in selection of seed corn

with an automobile takes three or four in an afternoon. He gets results that are absolutely wonderful.

Rural Life Pleasures

In California there is a group of eight rural schools about a village, none more than four miles away. The village and eight out-lying schools are in a tax-unit, with a superintendent for all of them. There is also a music supervisor and a drawing supervisor for all. From each school, children above ten go into the village for one-half day, the boys taking manual training in the village plant, and the girls sewing and cooking lessons. The children are transported to the village, two or three schools at the same time.

In these and other kindred ways country school life is made more attrac-

maple gives small satisfaction as a wind-break in the southern part of the province, and arrangements have been made with the railway companies to transport on a cost basis evergreens, which are plentiful in the northern part of the province, to parts of Southern Manitoba wherever farmers are desirous and willing to grow them.

In the interests of improved agricultural methods, crop rotation should be followed, and one of the crops which has already been profitably grown in Manitoba and one which should be more extensively used in the control of weeds is rye. Fall rye was dealt with in last week's Guide. Regarding spring rye, a recent bulletin issued from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture states as follows:

Spring rye is sown as early in the

spring as possible, it ripens in August and early enough to prevent a good many weeds from seeding. Instead of the grain being allowed to ripen, it may be cut for hay in June and then either pastured or a second crop of hay cut about the end of August. When two crops of hay are cut very few noxious weeds go to seed.

From the above it will be readily seen that the cultivation of spring rye would appear to lend itself admirably to the eradication of noxious weeds. The experience of the five years during which it has been cultivated is such that an increased acreage is sown each year. Some farmers are still growing it for its money value as a crop, while others are growing it both for its money value and for destroying noxious weeds.

The results are such that the department is warranted in indicating its cultivation in an experimental way on weedy ground. A ten-acre plot seeded with 15 bushels is well worth trying as a constructive method of eradicating noxious weeds and at the same time growing a crop of either grain or fodder.

Rye will grow on any ordinary soil except where water lies. It thrives on high ground or ridges, and as fall rye gets almost the whole of the year's precipitation, it does well in dry seasons.

Apart from its cultural value and its selling value, rye mixed with barley, oats or corn and chopped, makes an admirable ration for horses, cattle or pigs. It is said there is a tendency in rye to develop ergot and that it should not be fed to brood females near the end of the period of gestation. This tendency has not been indicated in this province, but care should be exercised in this regard till the matter is beyond doubt. Rye also makes wholesome flour, tho darker than wheat. It is an ideal food for fowls.

The opening price offered at Morden for the 1915 crop is 87 cents per bushel of 56 pounds, and there is a ready market for it wherever a carload is grown tributary to an elevator.

Rye hay is of fair quality and the yield is satisfactory. Rye straw is comparatively hard, and is said not to be as valuable as wheat straw for fodder. It is, however, eaten freely by stock, but as it has not been fed apart from other straw to any great extent there is not sufficient data of its value as a fodder.

TRANSPORT CHARGES ON SCREENINGS

The total dockage set by the inspection department, Board of Grain Commissioners, Department of Trade and Commerce, on the wheat, oats, barley and flax received by the terminal elevators the year ending August 31, 1913, exceeded 100,000 tons.

The Saskatchewan Grain Markets Commission placed the cost of hauling wheat from the farm to the railway station at 5 cents per bushel, local and terminal elevator charges at 2½ cents, and average freight rates from Saskatchewan points to Fort William at 12 cents per bushel, making total charges of 19½ cents per bushel or \$6.50 per ton.

Taking Saskatchewan points as average location for the prairie provinces, the charges on 100,000 tons of screenings at \$6.50 per ton amount to \$650,000. These charges must be met by the grain sold, and therefore represent a loss to the growers.

About sixty per cent. of the screenings from terminal elevators is a valuable feed for livestock. The remaining forty per cent. comprises the black seeds which may be removed by a zinc screen with 1-14 inch perforations. Sixty per cent. of 100,000 tons dockage for the year ending August 31, 1913, is 60,000 tons of feed worth \$25 per ton when bran sells at \$28. This represents a feeding value of \$1,500,000, less the cost of separating, grinding, distributing and marketing. The transport charges of \$650,000 on the screenings shipped to the lake front during the same year is a further consideration. This problem merits the careful consideration of grain grower, thresherman, miller, feed manufacturer and stockman.—Seed Branch, Ottawa.

Five British peers and thirty-one heirs of peers have already been killed in the war.