

PROSECUTIONS.

22. The less it is necessary for you to resort to law the better. Nevertheless, when it becomes necessary to act, it is important that you know how to go about it, so as to carry the matter through successfully. Get in touch with your local justice of the peace and get from him information as to the presenting of complaints, witnesses, etc. A justice of the peace must take your case unless he has some connection with same that would tend to influence his decision. In such cases he can refuse to proceed. Under these circumstances, it will be necessary to go before another justice. There is nothing the matter with The Noxious Weeds Act. (See, also, Nos. 20, 58, 75, 87.) It contains authority to permit a weed inspector to take any reasonable action, but in prosecutions the letter, as well as the spirit of the Act must be complied with. If you contemplate prosecutions, get in touch with this department two or three weeks previous to the time you intend to act. All fines collected under The Noxious Weeds Act belong to the municipality. (See section 207 of The Municipal Act.)

FAIRNESS AND COMMON SENSE.

23. An appointment as weed inspector gives to some men an exaggerated notion of their own importance. In the hands of some a little authority is a dangerous thing. Where is there any sense displayed by a weed inspector who gives an order for the hand-pulling of weeds where the thing is physically impossible of performance? What respect should be shown a weed inspector who happens to come along late in the season and gives a man five days' notice to do some work that could not be done in a week by twenty men? Wherein is there a spark of humanity shown by the weed inspector who orders a crippled old man to pull the tumbling mustard out of his wheat and oats but does not notice the mustard on the road or in the fields of a big farmer across the road? Many illustrations of this nature can be quoted. They happened in the province during the season of 1914. The orders were not complied with and the inspector took the matter to court, but lost his case and it served him right, but it was not because of any flaw in The Noxious Weeds Act. (See, also, Nos. 2, 6, 9, 63.)

WEEDS IN GROWING CROPS.

24. It is seldom advisable to take serious steps in connection with weeds in growing crops. The proper time to do weed work is, of course, before the crop is sown; therefore, when weed inspectors are on short time and can only work during the growing season, they should be careful in dealing with weeds in growing crops, because, in a good many cases, the owner absolutely must have the crop in order to make ends meet. In such cases, provided the attitude of the man towards the weed question is right, it is advisable to make as much allowance as possible. Your business is to take such steps as will prevent the noxious weeds on one man's place being a direct menace