

Mr. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm for Manitoba, at Brandon, Man., says:—"In regard to summer-fallowing: I consider it is absolutely essential on farms outside of the Red River valley, where, however, the advantages are not so clearly apparent, but even there I contend that the farmers would be benefited from a proper fallow every three or four years; too frequent fallowing in the Red River valley causes very rank vegetation and lodged grain. On our lighter and better drained soils this seldom occurs. Unfortunately, in this country much of the so-called summer-fallowing is badly done."

Mr. Hugh McKellar, Chief Clerk, Department of Agriculture for Manitoba, commenting upon a statement made by a Manitoba farmer that he could not afford to allow his land to lie idle as a summer-fallow for a year, says:—

"Some farmers say they cannot afford to summer-fallow. I may say farmers cannot afford *not* to summer-fallow, for it is done by horse-power, of which they generally have a supply on hand at that time of the year, with sulky or gang ploughs, by which they will plough from five to seven acres a day with four or six horses. In some of the wooded parts of the province, however, the land under cultivation by farmers is restricted in area. If a farmer has only forty or fifty acres under cultivation, he might well crop all of it every year, each year having a few acres of roots or corn, but on those large farms, such as you passed through with me out at Wawanesa, Souris or Hartney, where farmers crop 300 or 400 acres or more each year, it would be useless to crop a field of 150 or 200 acres with roots or ensilage corn. Such a field would feed 150 head of cattle for a year, and as you know the cattle are not yet in the country. Summer-fallowing, properly done, that is, ploughed early and kept clean afterwards, is in my opinion the only way in the west to keep down the many noxious weeds which would otherwise become our masters, and I may say this is the method followed by our most practical farmers."

"Our farmers are now learning the importance of knowing the different weeds and fighting them according to their different natures, but in this country some weeds are extremely persistent and hard to control. The natural conditions are all in favour of the weeds, but their eradication is only a matter of diligent, careful work and all the weeds, even the worst, can certainly be kept in check."

The Hon. Thomas Greenway and the officers of his department have taken active measures to prevent the spread of these enemies of the farmer in Manitoba by publishing bulletins and holding meetings throughout the province where the different kinds of dangerous weeds have been described and the best way to fight them explained.

Mr. Richard Waugh, Editor of the *Nor-West Farmer*, says:—

"The general experience of the best class of farmers in Manitoba and the Territories goes to show that for wheat growing especially, summer-fallowing, if properly done, is a great benefit. One strong point in its favour is that it can be best done at a season when no other work is pushing. Many mistakes have been made in doing this kind of work. But within the last two years careful observations and free discussion in farming papers and at farmers' institutes have led to practical unanimity as to the way in which it can be done with the least possible amount of labour, the best time and way to do it, and the results that may be reasonably expected from timely and well done work."

"Men with ripe Ontario experience began, as a rule, by ploughing twice, and occasionally even thrice. But it was soon found that this plan of action led to an overgrowth of straw, later ripening and an inferior quality of grain. I have for the last ten years been advocating one ploughing, going, if necessary, an inch deeper than any former ploughing