

Manitoba Takes Drastic Action Against Weeds

The Manitoba Government is conducting an energetic campaign against noxious weeds. A bill to amend the noxious weed act of 1906, now before the Legislature, which is likely to become law, if properly enforced should clean that country from foul weeds, or at least bring them under control.

The main amendments to the Act of 1906, apply exclusively to the Canada Thistle Act, and the perennial sow thistle, though its provisions may be applied by the municipality bylaw to other weeds which are considered injurious to agriculture. The main provisions of the new legislation are: It shall be the duty of every occupant of land, or if the land be unoccupied, it shall be the duty of the owner, to cut down and destroy the noxious weeds growing on his land, including any to which the provisions herein contained, may be extended by bylaw of the municipality, in each and every year before the 31st day of July, or each other date prior thereto, as may be determined upon by the inspector having jurisdiction in the locality, to prevent the ripening and scattering of the seed of such noxious weeds.

Section four makes it compulsory upon the occupant or owner to cut and destroy weeds as above along the roadway, immediately adjoining his farm, to the extent of one-half the width of the roadway adjoining such land. In cases where land is held by Crown, or otherwise non-taxable, the council shall cause the weeds to be destroyed at the expense of the municipality.

Section five gives power to the municipality to cut and destroy weeds as defined above, on all vacant lands in the district.

Railway companies are compelled to carry out the provisions of the act on the right of way.

INSPECTORS PROVIDED FOR

Other sections provide for the ap-

pointment of noxious weed inspectors to look after the enforcement of the Act by each municipality, and the notifying of the Department of Agriculture of the province of such appointments. Where the municipality fails to carry out the provisions of the Act the Minister of Agriculture shall appoint the inspectors, and charge the expense to the municipality. In case the municipality refuses to pay the cost of such inspection the municipal committee of the province is given power to levy the amount against the municipality in default. Besides this any municipal council neglecting to appoint weed inspectors is liable to a fine of not less than \$25, nor more than \$100, and every member of a council who votes against any resolution to appoint inspectors is liable to a fine of not less than \$50 and to disqualification from being elected to any elective office in any municipality in the province for a period of one year from the date of the imposition of such fine.

DUTIES OF INSPECTORS

Weed inspectors where they find noxious weeds growing and in danger of going to seed, shall give notice to the person responsible in writing, requiring such weeds to be cut, and destroyed within a certain time, not exceeding five days, and such notice must not be given later than the 31st of July of each year, or such prior date as may be thought necessary. Every owner or occupant of land failing or neglecting to carry out the provisions of such sections (3) and (4) is liable to a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$100. In addition to this, every owner or occupant is liable to a fine of \$25 for every day during which he fails to comply with the written notice of the inspector, as noted above. Railway companies which neglect to comply with the act are liable to a penalty of \$2 for every day during which the company neglects to do anything it is required to do.

Weed inspectors are given full pow-

er to go on any farm or property in enforcing the act, and are liable to a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$100, for failure or neglect to discharge their duties.

The inspector, with the consent of the council of the municipality, or the province, has the power to cut down and destroy any growing crop deemed necessary under the act, and no claim nor damage shall be allowed. In cases where a crop is only infested with Canada thistles to the extent of one half acre in the whole, the inspector shall use his discretion in enforcing the act, but he must notify the owner that if in the next or any succeeding year, his land is infested by the same extent the provisions of the act will be enforced.

As thus outlined the provisions of the new Manitoba Act is one of the most rigid pieces of legislation ever placed upon the statute books of any province in Canada. Where noxious weeds are such a menace to successful agriculture as they are in the west, drastic measures are necessary. The system of farming followed, and the neglect of the farmers to remedy matters, have caused the older portions of that part of Canada to be overrun with weeds. The newer provinces should take a lesson from Manitoba, and endeavor to keep them in check. Even Ontario and other Eastern provinces might learn a useful lesson. Weeds must be kept under control or agriculture cannot be made to pay in any country.

What is Good Seed?

To secure good seed, one must know what constitutes good seed. Good seed should be clean and free from weed seeds. It should be fresh and dry and with no trace of mould. Some seeds will retain their germinating power much longer than others, depending to a large extent upon the condition of the outer tegument, and the susceptibility of the seed to the effects of gases and moisture. Some recent tests in France show that

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seeds of a species of water lily germinated after having lain fifty years in a museum. With ordinary farm grains the life of the germinating power of the seed is limited from two to five years, depending upon the condition in which the seed has been preserved. Dryness is essential in the preservation of seed. Other things being equal, the farmer should secure the seed for next spring's operations from the crop of 1907. To make sure that the seed is all right, test it. Particulars for testing have been given in previous issues.

QUALITIES OF GOOD SEED

An English authority gives the qualities of good seed as follows:

Wheat.—Bright skin; freedom from swell; plump grain; grove well filled in; color, red or white, according to variety; dryness.

Oats.—Thin skin; plump grain; color, black or white—not known, which indicates heating at some period.

Barley.—Thin, wrinkled skin, grain not shrunk, but plump, with small, fine ends; pale, white to light golden color; freedom from swell; dryness.

Peas.—Dryness, and full size of the variety, colors, white, blue, brown and mottled. Black peas have been subjected to wet in the field, or elsewhere, and are useless for seed.

This definition of what constitutes good seed in the four cereals named, should enable any farmer to recognize good seed, when he sees it. Of course no amount of quality in the individual seed will make up for weed seeds and other impurities in the sample. It would be better to use an inferior quality of seed, that was clean, than a superior seed containing noxious weeds.

Power of Railway Commission Extended

The bill of the Minister of Railways and Canals, introduced at Ottawa recently extending the powers of the Railway Commission, will meet with general favor. Telegrams, telephone and railway cartage companies, and sleeping cars, will come under the jurisdiction of the commission. Power is also given to order railways to pay reciprocal demurrage, and to compel railways to pay if they delay to supply cars, when demanded, or, if after supplying cars, they delay delivering them at their destination.

Fruit shippers and others have been put to great inconvenience and loss through delay in getting cars, and their goods not arriving at their destination in time. The commission will now have power to compel the railways to remedy these grievances.

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E. H. WHITE - - - Battleford, Sask.

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