

on a field after harvest, will prevent its seeding, and by their close cropping weaken the underground rootstocks.

DETAILED METHODS.

Several methods of exterminating the perennial sow thistle are here outlined in detail. They have all been suggested by practical farmers. It is hoped that those who are looking for information on this subject will find among them a method suited to their own conditions.

Method No. 1. This method is suggested by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, who found it effective in the eradication of quack grass. Cultivate the field until about the middle of June, running over it frequently with the cultivator so as to keep the tops down, and thus weaken the "roots." Then apply manure at the rate of about 20 tons per acre (12 good loads). Cultivate the manure in thoroughly, and with a double mould board plough slightly ridge up the land, making the ridges about 26 inches apart. On the ridges sow pasture rape at the rate of 1½ pounds per acre. It is important that the right amount of rape should be sown, for if too little is sown the stand will not be thick enough to smother the weeds, and if, on the other hand, too much is sown the plants will be too crowded and not grow vigorously enough to keep ahead of the thistle. Sow the rape when the land is sufficiently moist to insure quick germination of the seed. If the rape is slow in starting the sow thistle may get a start in the rows, and thus necessitate hand cultivation there. Cultivate the rape every week or ten days until it occupies all the ground and makes further cultivation impossible. If, when the rape is cut or pastured, any sow thistle remains, the field should be ridged up the last thing in the fall, and put in with a hoed crop the following year. This should not be necessary if a good stand of rape is secured.

Method No. 2. This is a system of intensive cropping suggested by Prof. Zavitz. As soon as a cereal crop is harvested, plough the land and give frequent cultivation to the first or middle of September. Then sow winter rye at the rate of about two bushels per acre. This can be pastured the following spring, or cut for hay or grain. As soon as the crop is off the land, put in rape, turnips or buckwheat. The advantage of this system is that three crops are harvested in two years, and the sow thistle fought at the same time.

Method No. 3. This method is recommended by Prof. G. E. Day. Immediately after harvest gang-plough shallow, and run over the field several times with the broad-shared cultivator. Later in the fall plough a little deeper, and continue cultivating every week or ten days as long as the season permits. Last thing before the ground freezes rib up the land with a double mould board plough. The following spring give frequent cultivation up to the first of July, then sow pasture rape.

Method No. 4. This is a short rotation which has been recommended by several Farmers' Institute workers. Clover is followed by a crop of grain, then clover again. The clover is cut in June, and the land ploughed about four inches deep, and given frequent and thorough cultivation during the rest of the summer. The following spring a grain crop is sown, seeding down with clover. For best results the grain crop should be one which can be cut early enough to prevent the thistle from seeding.

Method. No. 5. Directly after harvest plough the land lightly, and then give frequent cultivation as long as the season permits. The following spring gang-plough, and leave in summer-fallow until it is time to sow fall wheat. The summer-fallow to be effective must be a bare fallow. The field must be cultivated thoroughly and frequently, with the object of keeping the tops down and breaking up and bringing to the surface of the ground as many of the "roots" as possible. The gang-plough should occasionally be run over the field in order to insure the cutting of the roots. Bare summer-fallow has given excellent results on the Ontario Agricultural College farm in seasons when other methods were at best only partially effective.

Destructive Birds.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

One of Professor Klugh's Nature's Diary Columns last fall was devoted to "Injurious Birds" and about this I would like to have a word with your readers. Prof. Klugh mentions in detail the house sparrow, crow and bronzed grackle and cow bird, which are four of the important injurious birds, but the other one, the Blue Jay, was omitted from mention. Possibly he has referred to this in another article as he certainly did not intend to omit it, but I have not happened to see it.

The bronzed grackle, crow and jay sign their own death warrant by destroying all the nests of small birds which they can find and while, from their remaining feeding habits they may even be considered beneficial to man, yet they are such as to be almost completely replaced by the use of

the domestic hen, which often follows the plough and usually roams the fields; but the number of small birds and their eggs which were destroyed by the species mentioned preclude any protection being given to them. In fact it has been stated that where these species are common hardly any of the beneficial song birds can be raised.

I hope your readers will see to it that a twenty-two rifle prevents the breeding of any of these species on their farms and where this is the case the attention necessary will be well repaid in the added numbers of native birds.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

W. E. SAUNDERS.

Partyism and Prussianism.

By Peter McArthur.

In the next election that is held in Canada, no matter whether it is held to-morrow or two years from now, and no matter which party wins, the liberties of the people will be threatened more seriously than at any time in the history of the country. It is now quite clear that partyism is certain to develop into Prussianism—the rule of an irresponsible few, working in secret. Both parties have shown that they are incapable of establishing a political truce at a time when not only the destiny of Canada and the Empire, but even of the human race is in peril. They have shown that it is impossible for them to co-operate in the urgent work of the hour. The Conservatives have called no Liberals to their councils. They wish to conduct the war in such a way that the Conservative party may receive credit for all the sacrifices that are made. They have ignored the great example of the British Government which called all the leaders of the Opposition to serve in conducting the business of the country. Instead of meeting this attitude with the spirit of self-abnegation that would show their moral superiority to the government and would win them the support of all men who place duty above the fate of parties, the Liberals have sleuthed for scandals which they unfortunately found and have made political capital of the mistakes due to haste and the grafting that appears to be inseparable from political operations in Canada. And now from the irreconcilable attitude of the two political parties there emerges a menace more sinister than waste, extravagance, incompetence or all the corruption that has ever been charged against any of our governments. Both parties have given evidence of being infected with the poison of Prussianism. Each seeks absolute power that can defy criticism. The scheming men of both parties dream that an election will give them this power. Conservative leaders announce frankly that they wish to be returned after an appeal to the people so that they may make appointments to the Senate, from which they were tricked in a deal with the Liberals, and in that way make their party supreme in both houses. If the Liberals are returned to power they will hold their majority in the Senate and be absolute. It is quite true that this state of affairs has existed with both parties in the past. At one time or another both Liberals and Conservatives have been supreme in both houses and the people have viewed the matter with indifference, for during the peaceful development of our country we have never been a political people in the true sense of the word. We have been more interested in the fate of the parties with which we have been affiliated by birth or even by conviction than we have in the fate of the country. By our indifference we have allowed the establishment of a Capitalistic and Privileged class to which both parties have been subservient. The High Financiers, the bankers, the railway promoters and the great corporations have had more to do with our government than the parties we elected to be their servants. Even in the preparations for an unnecessary wartime election the greedy machinations of these powers behind the throne are evident to careful and well-informed observers. It is one of the most alarming facts of our political history that both parties have given the Railway barons whatever they wanted, that on banking legislation their votes were practically unanimous and that both parties granted special privileges to corporations. Possibly the war has frightened so many parliamentary agents into decency that a new set of men is needed to carry out the wishes of our ruling classes and if an election is held they will do their best to see that they have enough friends returned in both parties to insure the granting of whatever they may desire, with the same unanimity that has prevailed in the past. That, more than anything else, explains the demand for an election which the plain people do not want. It is now evident as never before that in this terrible time, when the flower of our youth are being destroyed by the hellish machinery of war on the plains of Flanders that it would mean national suicide for us to place absolute power in the hands of any political party that is under the control of those who have been exploiting us. They are without vision, the autocratic, selfish Prussians of the new world. We must be saved

from the foe within our gates as well as from the foe without.

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I have never advocated a third party and I am loath to advocate one now, but the only hope I see for the preservation of our liberties is to send to Ottawa at the next election as many men as possible who will not be under the control of the old party leaders. Even if they were unorganized and devoid of political skill, if they maintained their independence and voted according to their convictions, they would be able to check Prussianism until the war is over. The farmers, more than any class in the country, because they must bear the burdens, should be represented fully after the next election and I am not sure but the most stubborn and backward farmers of the lot would be the best to send. A crisis has arisen where their stubbornness might save the nation—for the one virtue that we would ask of them is that they should refuse to be led. And let no one fear that because they will be leaderless they will be weak. Every advance in human liberty has been won through an uprising of the oppressed and leaderless.

"There was never a fight to the windward
But the leaderless Legion was there."

A group of leaderless men whose support could not be depended upon by the Prussians of either party would be a wholesome check on the government. We all want to see the war prosecuted to a successful issue, but it must be understood that the war is not being conducted for the benefit of any political party but to protect the liberties of the Canadian people. It will do us no good—indeed it will do us incalculable harm—if we succeed in destroying Prussianism in Europe merely to establish Prussianism in Canada. Military madness and the establishment of capitalistic and political absolutism in this country would be a disaster as great as defeat in the war. While Canadians are dying for liberty abroad we must strive unflinchingly to preserve liberty at home. If "The best that we breed" are to die for Canada we must see to it that Canada shall continue to be a place worth dying for. The conduct of our political parties and the Privileged classes during the past few months makes this all important point more than doubtful. The issue that will be raised by the next election—the issue of having our government placed entirely in the hands of either Prussianized political party—is as vital to the future of Canada as the outcome of the war. The only apparent way to defeat it is to run the risk of causing temporary political chaos by filling parliament with independent men, free from political bondage. Out of the turmoil that would ensue, as in all historical struggles for liberty, there would emerge men of statesmanlike outlook and vision who would pilot us to a greater peace and freedom than we have known. Desperate ills need desperate cures. I hope that in the next election there will be an independent candidate in every constituency and that enough of them will be elected to destroy the Prussianism that now threatens us in the disguise of partyism.

Sandy Sentimentalizes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Some o' the papers that hae been comin' intae ma hoose for some years, an' that I hae supposed were pretty respectable, hae been gie' accounts o' this big fight doon in Havana between the negro chap they call Johnson an' the ither fellow by the name o' Jess Willard. It's no thing that I tak' vera muckle interest in, this boxin' business, especially when it's turned intae a money-makin' scheme for the scrappers themselves an' for ither wha happen tae bet on tae richt mon. Gin there's ony fule thing 'on airt' it's fechtin' between men wha hae no quarrel tae settle, for I never heard that this Willard ever tauld Johnson onything that hurt his feelin's, or that Johnson sae much as called Willard hurtful names. But that's no' the point I'm comin' at. Gin they want tae be spoilin' ane anither's looks I suppose it's no' my business. The thing that struck me maist was this, Willard got the best o' the fight an' he gets a' the boquets an' telegrams o' congratulation, an' offers tae go on the stage an' a' that sort o' thing. Johnson gets beaten an' that's about a' he does get, except maybe a wee bit o' sympathy frae someone wha has lots tae spare. Noo, accordin' tae my point o' view this is a wrang. It should just be turned round the ither way. It seems that Willard is tae travel the country wi' a crowd that will not be vera slow, tae say the least, for frae what I ken o' the show business it isna' part o' its religion tae get a reputation for livin' the simple life an' that sort o' thing. An' gin he doesna' keep a pretty tight hault on himsel' it winna' be lang till he gets tae taekin' a wee bit mair than is guid for him an' rinnin' aff the track on some ither mair or less poor excuse, an' gin he doesna' gae tae the deil entirely it will maist likely be because some ither chap that has been takin' care o' himsel' an' developin' his muscle, comes along an' gies him a tap on the point o' the jaw that will