

known. When more names than one are given, the first is preferable. The scientific names, of which only one for each plant is recognised as authoritative by botanists all over the world, are here given, so that the certain identity of each plant mentioned may be known. Few farmers, of course, are acquainted with these scientific terms, even in the case of our commonest weeds, but it would be well if they were; for certainly much confusion exists in different localities in the application of the English popular names, the same plant being frequently called by one name in one place and by quite a different one somewhere else, or quite as frequently a single name is applied to a number of distinct plants in different places or by different people in the same place. The advantage, or even necessity, of calling a plant by its proper name has been forcibly illustrated in the case of the Tumbling Mustard, now so prevalent in many parts of Manitoba and at Indian Head, &c., in the North-west Territories. This most injurious weed was for some time after its introduction, spoken of generally as "Tumble Weed," a name properly belonging to a much less aggressive plant, the *Amarantus albus*, one of the Pigweeds. Owing to the use of this wrong name, little effort was put forth by the settlers to destroy the new enemy, because it was well known all through the West that the true Tumble Weed was a native plant which had never given much trouble. Similarly, the Hare's-ear Mustard, a very noxious weed, was left undisturbed by some from having been wrongly spoken of by many as "Black Mustard." The Black Mustard, as a matter of fact, is of very rare occurrence in Canada, and as far as I am aware is not anywhere in the Dominion a troublesome weed in crops.

The present bulletin is issued in response to numerous inquiries as to the nature of the many weeds found on farm lands in the Territories, and the best way of getting rid of them. While it is true that the character of each kind has to be considered, there are certain principles which must be constantly borne in mind by those who wish to clear their land of noxious weeds. In the present age of extensive and easy communication with all parts of the country, and indeed with the whole world, there are frequent opportunities for seeds of weeds being introduced into previously uninfested districts. As an offset against the great benefits we derive from railways, it has been found that many new weeds have been introduced into new localities through their agency, the seeds being either shaken from cars or cleaned out of them at stopping places. It is important, therefore, to keep watch on all railway banks and station yards.

HOW WEEDS SPREAD.

There are many ways by which weeds are spread:—

1. By natural agencies. The wind carries seeds long distance, not only in summer, but with dust and over the surface of the snow in winter. Streams distribute them far and wide along their courses. They are also distributed by seed-eating birds and herbivorous animals, through the stomachs of which the seeds have passed undigested, or by being attached to some part of their bodies by special contrivances, with which nature has provided some seeds for this very purpose, such as hooked and barbed hairs, spines and gummy excretions, &c.

2. By human agency. The seeds of weeds are frequently introduced as "foul seed mixed with other seeds; they are also imported in hay used for packing or as fodder. In addition to this, weeds are frequently distributed over farms by waggons, harrows, seeders, threshing

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