

Mr. R. M. Graham's Farm, Melita, Man.

Our illustration represents the farm of Mr. R. M. Graham, Melita, Man., who moved to this province from St. Thomas, Ont., in 1883. He then opened a general store and ran it in connection with the farm, which was 45 miles distant from Virden, the nearest railway station. A few years later the Pembina Mountain Branch of the C. P. R. was extended to Deloraine, distant 28 miles, and in 1891, on the Souris Railway, a station was located adjoining the farm at Melita. The growth of this latter place has been rapid, it being beautifully situated in a fertile district, on the west bank of the river, where the railway crosses. The soil of this fine farm is a rich loam lying high, with southeastern slope, having, Mr. Graham informs us, always produced a good yield of No. 1 hard wheat which has been free from smut and uninjured by frost. It consists of $\frac{1}{2}$ 36-3-27, about half of which is high wheat

Weeds.

BY J. HOYES PANTON, M. A., F. R. G. S.

Sonchus oleraceus (Sow-thistle).

This is the annual form of sow-thistle, and while in some places very common, it is not difficult to overcome. It has flowers and lower leaves not unlike those of the dandelion, but the plant is two to four feet high.

Sonchus arvensis (Perennial Sow-thistle).

This species is much like the preceding, but very bristly along the flower stems and around it on the underside. This perennial has a creeping rootstock, its flowers are bright yellow and larger than those of the annual type. Owing to its habits of growth it requires the most thorough cultivation to get rid of it, for any part of its root will grow under favorable conditions, something the same as we see in the root of couch grass. This weed is spreading, for specimens are constantly coming to the writer for identification; consequently, great vigilance should be exercised to keep it subdued.

Erechtithes hieracifolia (Fireweed).

This plant has received its name on account of its appearing to spring up where woods have been cleared and the ground burned over. It is

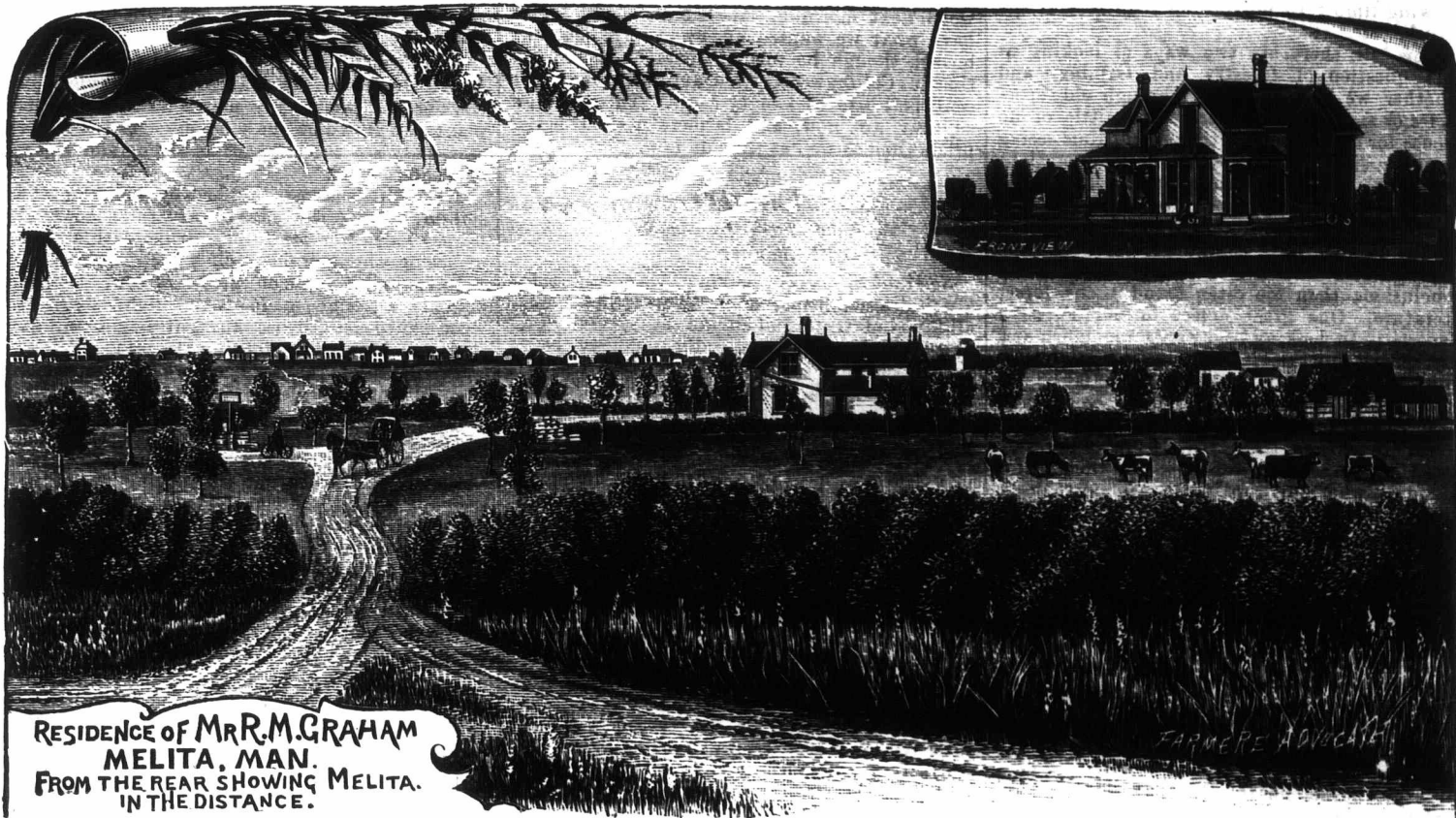
gardens and found its way elsewhere, so that we have it quite common along the roadsides, with a tendency to invade the fields. It grows two to five feet high and branches considerably, the branches bearing a large number of light blue flowers about one and a-half inches across; leaves, especially in spring, much like those of the dandelion. Thorough cultivation and care in sowing clean seed are necessary to keep free of this weed, where it has got foothold.

Taraxacum Dens-leonis (Dandelion).

So well-known is this weed that it requires no description. We never look upon it with any degree of suspicion, but are rather pleased to see its golden flowers decorating the sides of ditches and sloping hills by the way. It seldom invades the fields, but sometimes proves rather troublesome upon lawns. Its perennial root has been used as a substitute for coffee.

Erigeron (Fleabane).

This genus is represented by three species:—*E. annuum*, *E. Canadense*, *E. Philadelphicum*. The fleabanes are common; they flower in summer, many being upon a single plant and bearing many seeds. The flowers are not unlike the daisy, but the plants are two or three feet high.



land, the balance being river bottom grazing land, with a never-failing supply of good spring water the year round, a fine creek crossing the corner of the farm. Beside this water supply there is a good cistern, stone well 18 feet deep, and round curb well 70 ft. deep, with an inexhaustible supply of pure water. A beautiful hedge of maple extends for one mile on the west side and one-quarter of a mile on the east, from 8 to 10 ft. high, grown from native seeds. There is also a park of three acres of transplanted native elm, maple, ash, balm, poplar, spruce, wild plums, etc., besides a variety of small fruits. About 100 acres of pasture are fenced with cedar posts and barb wire. The farm stock at present consists of horses and cattle. Sheep are shortly to be added. The fine residence is so situated as to make it very convenient, and has a beautiful front prospect, of which the lively and pretty town of Melita forms a pleasing part.

The farm yields the farmer a great many luxuries that are not credited.

rank and coarse, often growing two to four feet high, stout stem, and bearing many flowers of a dull white color. Cutting this annual down will soon overcome it. It is seldom seen in well cultivated fields, but seems to grow on newly cleared places or neglected spots.

Lappa major (Burdock).

This common, coarse weed, with its large burrs full of seeds, frequents the fence corners around the barnyard, and is so well known from its large leaves that it requires no description to identify it. Being a biennial, it is not difficult to overcome by cutting a little below the crown of the roots and below the surface two or three inches, about the time of flowering. It is a great mistake to merely cut these weeds near the ground, as it increases their vigor instead of lessening it.

Cichorium Intybus (Ochicory).

This perennial is becoming common in many parts of the province; its beautiful showy flowers resting upon the stem, apparently without a flower stock, give it a striking appearance and render it readily identified. The flowers are usually well expanded in the morning and in cloudy weather. The plant has been grown for the purpose of using its deep root ground up as a substitute for coffee. It has escaped from the

The flowers are about half an inch in diameter; yellow centre and surrounded by a great many narrow rays, white in Canadense, but purple in the other two species. The stem is considerably branched, rather hairy, and the leaves much longer than broad.

Marula Cotula (May-weed).

A very common annual along the roadside; stems mostly erect, leafy and bushily branched; about one foot high; leaves very much cut; discs of the flowers yellow, surrounded by white rays. The weed has a strong, unpleasant smell, and though common in backyards, lawns, etc., it never proves much trouble in the fields.

Anthemis arvensis (Field Chamomile).

Bears a close resemblance to the May-weed, but has not the unpleasant smell of that plant, and the flowers are somewhat larger. It has not as yet become common, and can scarcely be considered a very troublesome weed. Sometimes it is spoken of as the coarse May-weed.

Gnaphalium Polyccephalum (Everlasting).

This is not a troublesome weed, but is often seen along the roadside and in pasture fields, where the plants grow in masses usually one or two feet in diameter. Stem, one and two feet high; leaves, long and narrow, cottony on both side; white flowers on heads and massed together.