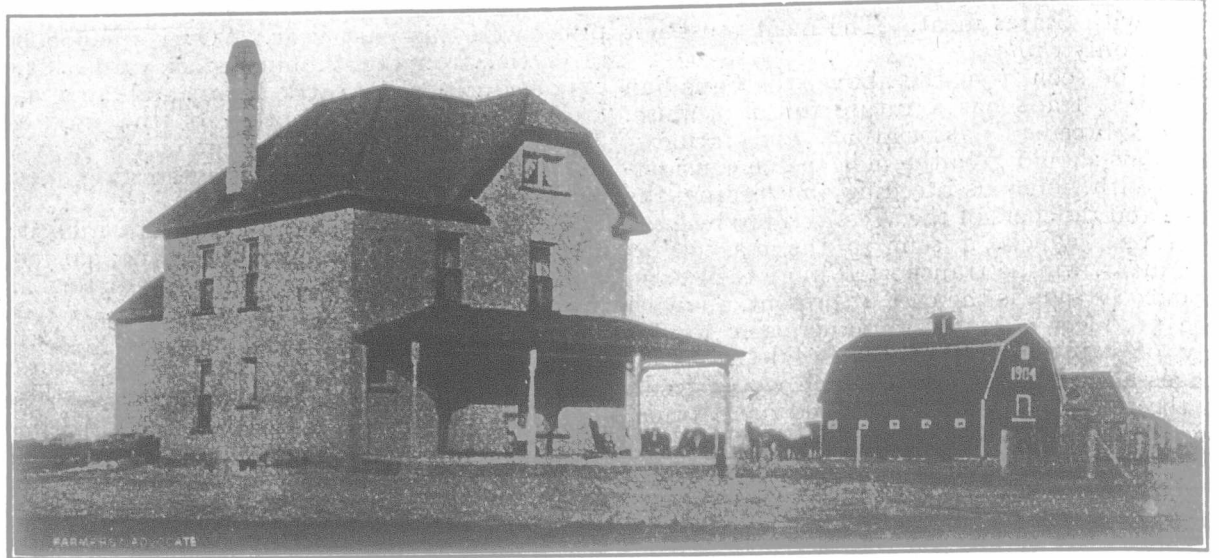


that they exist in a house so commodious and apparently well constructed. We particularly object to the kitchen being attached to the back part of the main house, and in this case the evil is exaggerated by the distance of the dining room door from the kitchen. By substituting the kitchen for the morning room the house would be much more compact and convenient, and we have a strong suspicion that this has been done this winter since fuel has been so hard to obtain. Even then there is a waste of room between the hall and the rooms behind. We should also recommend that intending builders take care to have the foundations higher than these appear in the picture. We have had some experience with low basements and cannot pronounce them a success. Have the basement at least three feet above the surface of the surrounding land, especially where the soil is a clay and works up into mud.

The style of roof Mr. Shepherd has adopted is to be commended, as is also the simple plainness of exterior. It looks well and is not expensive to maintain in repair.



HOME OF MR. FRANK SHEPHERD WEYBURN, SASK.

### Questions on Smutty Seed.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of November 21 I noticed and read with the greatest interest your article "Treated Seed but Wheat is Smutty."

Last spring I sowed about thirty acres of wheat after having treated the seed very carefully with blue stone. I used the "immersing process" because it appears it is better than the "sprinkling." Could you tell me what you think about the results? In spite of bluestoning I got very smutty wheat. Why? You state, in your article, "The spores of smut might be brought in contact with seed after treating, from bin or from dust of barn, or from bags," etc. Do you think that the spores of smut coming in contact with wheat quite wet and saturated with bluestone could develop? Why are they not killed?

I did not plough the field where I got this smutty wheat last fall. I intend to plough it this spring and to sow it again. Do I not risk, so doing, to get a smutty crop this year too? Does the frost kill the spores or not? Was it better to plough my field before the winter or not? Would it not be better to burn the stubble before ploughing? Would it not be good to wash the floor and the walls of my granary with a bluestone solution (and of what strength?) to protect my next crop from contagion? Is there something to be done for the same purpose with bags and wagon boxes? Is a good fanning-mill able to clean wheat from smutty grains? What do you think about the Chatham separating machine in this way? This letter is a little long, Mr. Editor, but, however, I think the question is of general interest among the farmers, for everywhere I hear about smutty wheat.

Sask.

C. H.

[In the first place the solution may not have been strong enough on account of the bluestone being low grade or there not having been enough used. This, however, is rather a remote possibility. It is more likely that there were smut spores under the bran of the wheat that did not come in contact with the solution, or that spores gained access to the seed after it was partly dried. If spores come in contact with wheat damp with the bluestone solution it is probable that their vitality would be destroyed, but if the seed wheat were partly dried the spores would probably cling to it and infect the new growth. Certain circumstances have also led us to believe that partly matured smut spores may exist inside the kernel of apparently uninfected wheat and that after seeding these spores germinate and infect the crop.]

Whether the land be fall or spring plowed will affect the growth of smut only as it affects the moisture content and firmness of the soil, which is another matter. There is no particular risk in sowing wheat on land that has raised a smutty crop, provided the seed is good and has been treated. The possibility of a spore coming in contact with the wheat just at germinating time is very slight. Frost, of course, will not kill the spores any more than it will injure the vitality of grains.

We should advise burning the stubble under the circumstances, not alone to destroy any smut spores that might be holding to the straw, but also to kill weed seeds and rust spores—for there was some rust about last year.

Certainly in the granary, wagon boxes, measures, drill box, etc., have come in contact with smut, wash them with a solution of one pound of bluestone to six gallons of water, taking care not

to apply too much of the solution to the metal parts. Bags may be turned inside out and left in the sun for a few days. All seed grain should be well cleaned in a mill, but we are not aware of there being any fanning mill that can be depended upon to absolutely clean out smut balls; besides, the spores will cling to the grain. The Chatham is a good mill for cleaning out light seeds, weeds, etc.—Ed.]

### Thistles Become a Nuisance.

Judging from the enquiries which reach us and the results of our rather limited observations, the Canada thistle must be getting to be quite a common weed. A Hartney correspondent is the latest to ask how thistles are to be eradicated. This weed has got its name largely because of its prevalence in Eastern Canada, and the way it is held in check there is by growing hoed crops, clover, grass, and by summerfallowing. We have entirely cleaned a field of Canada thistles by seeding to clover and timothy, taking off two crops. Under our western conditions we should suggest summerfallowing, or late spring plowing followed by barley, or if they be not already spread over too wide an area, seeding to timothy or brome, depending upon the character of the soil. The object should be to keep the thistles from making leaf, and as the root is sapry it soon rots. In summer fallow of course thistles are kept from sending up leaf, and this is effective, but they are also unable to make a growth in a thick sod. In fence rows and about roads and ditches seeding with a persistent grass is the best plan to keep down all kinds of weeds, and if the grass becomes thin a light coat of manure with a fresh seeding will stimulate the growth.

### Associations, Not Combines.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I consider the new tariff is a weak attempt to please the Manufacturer without displeasing the farmer and certainly pleasing the former more than the latter. I believe in a square deal for everyone, farmer, merchant and manufacturer, and with these three acting honorably there need be little fear for the workman; it is the *avarice* of every one that upsets things and especially of those men who willingly use illegitimate means to acquire wealth. I firmly believe that a combination among farmers, such as your correspondent, Mr. W. R. Ball of Strathcona, supports, would be no more of a blessing than one among manufacturers or any other class or body. The farmer is only human like the rest. We hear constantly of the people of all civilized countries trying to find new markets for their products and especially for manufactured articles. If this then be the case is it not a wrong policy to nourish a lot of manufacturers and of course at the same time their hosts of employees on a high tariff, or in fact on any tariff, and then when this country has begun to reach its limit in expansion, as it is bound to do some time (and it is our duty to look to the future) the screw will have to be put on more than ever in order to keep the home market for an *overgrown* and *unnecessary* number of manufacturers and their employees. If the farmer be treated fairly in this agricultural country, prosperity will most certainly automatically adjust itself and every one will participate as they are doing now. *I believe in associations of farmers, not combines.*

Northern, Alta.

T. F. SWALLOW

### A Necessity in the Farm Home.

Dear Sirs:—Enclosed find \$1.50 to cover my renewal subscription to your paper. The value of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is very material to every farm home.

Melita.

G. F. DOBRYN.

