

growing has reached the lowest point it is likely to touch, and there will be an increase in area and in profits in the future. The recent rise in price has probably induced many farmers to believe that what has happened once will happen again, and to increase their wheat sowings in consequence. The wheat question requires to be viewed in a very large way, and with some knowledge of what is going on all over the world. For example, it is said that news from four of the principal winter wheat states of America is not favourable. The usual acreage has not been sown, there has been a bad drought and the crops are doing badly. Out of twelve reports from Ohio, eight mention a decrease of area, two an increase, and ten out of the twelve describe the growing crop as precarious. Ten reports from Indiana speak of a contracted area. Five out of the ten reports from Illinois refer to a contraction. In Kansas there will be about as large an acreage as usual. In Nebraska the winter wheat sown is one third less than last year. The farmer, who sees the importance of these details, would hardly compliment himself on his powers of discernment if he sowed less wheat this season than usual. A healthy rise, due to general causes must be good for the wheat grower and we think wheat growing in the future has a better outlook than for several years past.

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THE WEEDS OF THE FARM.

Weeds are perhaps the worst enemies against which every farmer has to contend: there are many parts of the country over which weeds have always had full sway, and now that it is getting more cultivated every year, it is time that the weeds should be destroyed. There is no doubt that it is a tedious task to perform, since weeds spring up year after year, when we may think we have completely got rid of them. The great reason for this is that the extirpation of the weeds has been performed at the wrong period of the year, and it is to this point that I wish to draw the reader's attention. It is not generally understood how extremely important it is to keep a farm clean of weeds: a man should take a pride in keeping his farm in good order, and this is impossible if he does not keep an eye on the weeds, that are only too willing to spring up. There are many reasons why they should be destroyed: (1) they are robbing the soil of its plant food, both natural and applied: (2) they choke the crops among which they grow, and thus lessen the produce of these crops. This is an important consideration and brings to the front the great benefit of complete cultivation: the weeds entwine themselves round the young plant and hinder its growth. It is a great mistake to imagine that weeds cannot be destroyed, and a man has himself alone to blame if he does not take measures to prevent their growth. From a business point of view it is decidedly advantageous to destroy them. Supposing a farmer wishes to buy a larger farm than he has at present, as so often is the case with young men. If their old farm is in good condition, tidy, and free from weeds, they would obtain a better price than they could have otherwise obtained. Again, none but a slovenly farmer allows weeds to thrive: such a man does not only do harm to himself, but also to his neighbour, since the seed of the weeds is scattered by the wind and falls in neighbouring places to ripen, and grow up the following year. In some countries one can be prosecuted for allowing thistles to ripen their seed, and thus it might be in our country. There are two classes of weeds, namely (1) those that propagate themselves by their seeds, as do all annuals and biennials: (2) those that propagate themselves by their roots as perennials. Hence it follows that if the former are prevented from ripening their seed they must perish, and this is the great secret for their destruction. To destroy those of the second class, we must prevent them from breathing. This is a good way of looking at the question, but I will now ente