

exact places where each was found. Through these competitions parents as well as children added greatly to their knowledge of noxious weeds.

*Knowledge of weed loss should dispel indifference.*

While too many of our farmers apparently are indifferent regarding the prevalence of weeds, it must be assumed that their indifference is due largely to want of information regarding the immense loss which they cause. But there is not sufficient excuse for this. The records of Western grain graded "rejected" because of weed seeds tells the story. The farmer grows, cuts, binds, threshes, ships and pays freight on an immense quantity of seeds for which he gets less than no return—it is a bill of expense. A bulletin of the Dominion seed commissioner clearly furnishes additional evidence on this point, and if there be need to confirm these facts, we have the evidence of what we see all about us. And summing these up, I concluded last harvest that the farmers of this province lost \$25,000,000 in 1915 through noxious weeds. Now surely, Mr. Chairman, evidence of this great loss is all that is needed to awaken the man whose revenue is being stolen from him by the weeds while he sleeps. And armed with this information cannot our councillors assist in sounding the alarm and calling indifferent farmers to action?

*Western Agriculture favours weeds.*

Our Canadian West is one of the worst countries in the world for weeds. Our system of continual and almost exclusive grain growing favours weeds. The marvellously rich clay soil produces them abundantly. Our climate, dry and generally cool in the fall of the year, prevents the germination in the fall of seeds and the growth of weeds which the winter's frosts should kill. The windy days and the drifting of weed infested summerfallows transports weed seeds to clean farms. And our worst weeds ripen early and shed their seed on the ground to blight succeeding crops and decrease the farmer's revenues.

*The fight is on.*

Weed control and weed eradication are not mere terms. They represent a serious task, stern enough to challenge the energies, the patience and the resources of any man. But the man who is alert to the danger and loss, who knows the enemy and the best mode of attack, will launch the offensive of his own accord, without waiting for an order from the weed inspector. There is no need to wait until the weeds are in control.

*Expedients.*

We should begin at once to reconstruct our prairie agriculture. We cannot make a clean sweep all at once, but we can at least begin to control weeds by summerfallowing every third year; by using clean seed; by harrowing grain in its early stages with a light drag harrow just as the weeds begin to appear, and preferably on a bright warm day; by growing such crops as winter rye for the eradication of wild oats; and by cultivating only as much land as we have power to work properly; and by doing uniformly good workmanship in all parts of our field activities.