



Items and Articles of Special Interest to Our Farmers

Three Noxious Weeds Which Have Invaded the Prov.

By Eric A. McLaren.

There are three noxious weeds which have invaded the Province of Saskatchewan, and are rapidly gaining ground.

These are the Canada Thistle, the Sow Thistle, and the Wild Oat. These have been introduced from Europe.

Weeds spread in a great many ways. They are carried by the winds, birds, water, and farm machinery; and many millions of them come in grain. A year ago a sample of oats (tea-cupful) was taken from a gallon measure, and upon examination it was found to contain 1720 tumbling mustard, 123 worm seed mustard, 100 hare's ear mustard, 16 buckwheat, 14 Russian pig weed, 11 gum weed, 2 ball mustard, 1 chess and 1 corn cockle. And just think, all of these in a half pint of seed. If the farmers of Saskatchewan are not careful to control the weeds on their farms in a few years more the weeds will control the farmers and their farms.

It is much easier to keep land clean, than it is to clean it after it has become infested with weeds.

The Canada Thistle.

The Canada Thistle has a creeping root which grows and runs along in the ground at a depth of about 15 inches below the surface. This root sends up new shoots every five or six inches, and if left alone these will grow to a height of from two to four feet. When this thistle is well rooted, and established, it is a formidable enemy, and almost beyond control. By care it may be kept from spreading, but it is almost impossible to eradicate it from the patch with any reasonable amount of work. The leaves are rather narrow, slightly clasping the stem at the base. The upper surface of the leaves are smooth, and of a dull green color, while the under surface is slightly downy, and of a grayish color. Some plants bear male flowers only, and produce no seeds; others bear female flowers only, which produce many seeds. The flower heads of the male plant are larger, stronger, brighter in color than those of the female plant. A female plant will produce in one season about 2,500 seeds.

The seeds are quite large, about 1-8 of an inch long, and of a light brown color. The top end of the seed is nearly round, and attached to it is a tuft of hair which makes it easy for the wind to carry the seed long distances.

Canada Thistle is spreading very rapidly, and small patches may be found in most sections of the province. The worst sections at present are on the Canadian Pacific Railway between Moose Jaw and Wolsley.

The Sow Thistle.

Only in two respects is the Sow Thistle like the Canada Thistle. It has a large vigorous, running root, and grows erect from two to four feet. The young plants have very short roots, and are easy to destroy, but as they grow they soon become established, forming a network beneath the surface. The root stocks grow long, and send up numerous new shoots. One specimen examined last summer had seven new shoots on six inches of root stock.

The stem is smooth and hollow, and the plant is filled with a bitter milky juice. Leaves are abundant near the ground, but are few on the stem. One main characteristic of the Sow Thistle is the great mass of leaves that cover the ground. The leaves are pointed, and from four to eight inches long. The plant is slightly prickly all over, though a perfectly smooth variety is sometimes found. The flowers resemble the flowers of the common dandelion, are yellow, and from one

to one and a half inches in diameter. There are from five to fifteen flowers on a single stem.

The seeds are reddish-brown in color, and about one-eighth of an inch in diameter. Each seed has at the top a tuft of white silky hair, which, when dry, is carried long distances by the wind. The seeds germinate readily in the fall. An average plant will produce between two and three thousand seeds.

The plant is now in many sections of the Province, and steps should be taken to stamp it out. The best way to eradicate it is for every farmer to keep his own land clear of it, and this is the proper thing for every farmer to do if he would rid the province of weeds, if it can now be done.

The Wild Oat.

This weed is different to the thistles. It is an annual; the thistles are perennials.

The Wild Oat resembles the cultivated oat in general appearance, with one exception, that it is taller. The panicle has more branches, and is finer and the whole plant is of a white-green bloom which enables one acquainted with it to distinguish it at a considerable distance. It has two characteristics—very hairy, with right-angled awn, and is colt's-food or spoon-bill. The awn is broken off in the threshing. Wild Oats will come through three to five inches of soil, and will lie on the ground for a number of years without losing their vitality. They are common all over the province, and it is difficult to find seed oats free from the seed of this weed.

Just a word as to how these weeds can be best eradicated. The cure will depend largely upon the extent of the area infested. When patches of the Canada Thistle and the Sow Thistle are very small the most effective way is to dig them out, roots and all. This means work, but it will pay in the end. Or cover them over three feet deep with manure, and extend the manure four or five feet beyond the boundary of the patch, and let it remain for the entire summer. If the area of both thistles is large, the general opinion is that the best way to deal with them is to start cultivation as early in the spring as shoots appear above the surface. Cultivate all summer, plowing occasionally five to six inches deep. This will starve the roots, and they will die.

A few patches of Sow Thistle if allowed to mature may seed down a whole farm. Sheep are fond of this weed (but will not touch the Canada Thistle) and if turned into a field where the thistle grows they will prevent its seeding by close cropping which will starve and weaken the underground roots.

And for the Wild Oat a good summerfallow is the best plan. Start the fallow in the fall by plowing two or three inches deep. This will prevent the germination of that years oats, and will put the soil into such a condition as to make possible the germination early in the spring of most of the oats in that portion of the soil. The first two weeks of spring is the ideal time for seed germination. Harrow or disc the field every week or ten days until the last of June when it should be well plowed. Each day's plowing should be harrowed the same day. Give the field surface cultivation the rest of the season.

Pasturing will help to control the wild oat if stink weed is not present. Stock will not eat the stink weed. Seeding the land with one bushel of winter rye to the acre the same year it is fallowed will produce a profitable crop of grain the next year, and so choke out the wild oats that the farmer who has been afflicted with them will rejoice.

Do not wait until the farm is overrun with wild weeds before taking steps to control them. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

—Farm and Ranch Review.

SYNOPSIS OF GAME LAWS.

By F. Brodshaw, Chief Game Guardian.

Big Game.

(Open season: November 15 to December 14, incl.)

It is unlawful to kill female big game animals and fawns at any time.

It is unlawful to take moose or elk having horns or antlers less than 6 inches in length. It is unlawful to use dogs for hunting big game or allow dogs used for such purposes to run at large.

It is unlawful for the purpose of transportation to divide a big game animal into more than four parts or quarters in addition to the head.

It is unlawful to ship big game to which is not attached official tag supplied with license.

It is unlawful to have in possession a big game animal where the evidence of sex is not clearly apparent.

It is unlawful to kill more than one elk, one moose or more than two big game animals in all in one season.

It is unlawful to offer the flesh of big game for sale.

It is unlawful to have game in any lumber camp, or any camp used for any commercial purpose, during the close season.

Every person hunting big game must wear a complete outer suit of some white material which suit must include a white cap.

A holder of a big game license shall be a game guardian during the open season for big game.

Make this a rule: No loaded firearms in camp.

Signal of distress: three shots in succession.

We have one of the finest big game countries on the American continent. Help to conserve this priceless heritage.

Game Birds.

(Open season: September 15 to December 31, incl.)

It is unlawful to destroy or capture game birds by the use of poison, narcotics, sunken punts, nightlights, traps, nets or snares of any kind; swivel, spring, automatic or machine shot guns.

It is unlawful to hunt water fowl from sail boats, yachts, launches or other boats propelled by steam, gasoline or electrical motive power.

It is unlawful to disturb the nest or take the eggs of game birds.

It is unlawful to train or run loose in fields, in which game birds may be found, between April 1 and July 15.

It is unlawful to have game birds in storage between March 1 and September 15.

Prairie chickens, partridge and all other grouse are protected until September 15, 1919. Penalty \$100 for first bird and \$25 for each additional bird unlawfully taken.

Protect the Prairie Chicken.

They protect the farmer. How? By destroying myriads of injurious insects and noxious weed seeds, which, if unchecked, would destroy the crops.

Game birds are also valuable as a food supply. Their greatest value, though, is the magnetic power they possess to draw one away from the daily routine to the Great Outdoors. Those precious days of recreation tone up the whole system for another period of strenuous work.

Fur Bearing Animals.

(Open season for Mink, Fisher, Marten and Fox, November to March, incl.; for Otter and Muskrat, November to April, incl.; for Beaver, December to April, incl.)

It is unlawful to buy and sell without a license the skins of animals that produce fur of a marketable value. Fees: \$10 for residents north of township 25, \$2 for residents south of township 26, and \$20 for non-residents. Agent permit: agent employed by resi-

dent \$10; employed by non-resident, \$20.

It is unlawful to export furs that are not of prime quality.

It is unlawful to destroy muskrat houses or shoot or spear muskrats at any time.

It is unlawful to use poison for killing fur bearing animals mentioned in *The Game Act*.

Fur dealers must return their license on or before June 30 of each year together with a statement showing kinds of fur and the number of each kind bought and sold during the year.

Use your influence to protect indiscriminate killing of any species of wild life.

Transportation of Game.

It is unlawful to ship any game or fur bearing animals in any receptacle that may not be easily opened for examination, unless same is plainly marked with full description of contents and addresses of consignee and consignor are given.

It is unlawful to export game without a permit.

The fees for permits are as follows:

For each head of moose, caribou or elk exported, \$5.00.

For each head of either deer or set of antlers exported, \$2.00.

For each hide of whatever variety of big game exported, \$1.00.

For each shipment of one dozen or less of game birds exported, \$1.00.

For each live black or silver fox exported, \$25.00.

For each live cross or red fox exported, \$5.00.

For every other variety of live fur bearing animal exported, \$5.00.

For each shipment of twenty pounds or less of the flesh of big game, \$1.00.

It is unlawful to export prairie chickens.

Refrain from killing species of wild life you know are scarce and use moderation in the taking of others.

Resident Licenses.

Game bird licenses for residents of cities, towns, villages and hamlets, \$1.25. Big game license, \$5. Fur dealer's license north of township 26, \$2. Taxidermist license, \$5.

No license issued to any person under 16 years of age without the permission of his guardian.

Nonresident Licenses.

Big game, \$25. Game birds for season, \$15; in case of person domiciled in Canada, \$5. Trapper's license, \$25. Fur dealer's license, \$20.

It is unlawful to accompany or aid a nonresident to shoot game without a license.

Observe the Game Laws and see that others do so.

General.

It is unlawful to shoot game on enclosed or cultivated property without permission.

It is unlawful to shoot on game preserves.

It is unlawful to shoot between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise.

It is unlawful to carry a loaded gun in or on, or discharge the same from a carriage, rig, wagon, automobile or other vehicle.

It is unlawful to offer game of any kind for sale.

Don't point a gun at any person in fun. This is no matter for jest. It is always the gun "we did not know was loaded," that goes off. The only time to point a gun is when you intend to kill.

To wound or kill a person while hunting makes one liable to a penalty of \$1,000, or six months' imprisonment.

Every person who makes or starts a fire in the open for cooking or camping purposes should exercise and observe every precaution to prevent such fire from spreading, and carefully extinguish the same before quitting the place.

Bag Limit.

Big Game, one Moose, one Elk, two Deer, two Caribou, males only, but not more than two animals in all.

Ducks and Geese, 50 a day, total 250 for season.

Penalty for violation of Law—\$10.00 to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment.

"A game butcher is an undesirable citizen and should be treated as such."

"The wild life of today is not ours to do with as we please. The original stock is given to us in trust for the benefit both of the present and the future. We must render an accounting of this trust to those who come after us."

EFFICIENCY IN MILKING

Prejudice against milking cows is a thing that is scarcely a characteristic of the man who has the makings of a true stockman in him. The man who likes to stay and work about amongst live stock, study them, attend to their requirements and comfort, is the kind of man who gets his profits out of the dairy cow. This is obvious enough. But it is equally true that it takes just that kind of a man, with that same habit of mind and of thought, to make a success with any kind of live stock, and it is hard to produce figures from actual work with any other kind of stock that will show the same kind of profits.

To the real stockman milking time is a pleasure. If there are any discomforts about it he takes care to remove them; and, while he is removing them, for his own sake, he is making conditions better for the cow, the kind that will find expression not alone in more, but in better milk.

Milking is a work that should not be done by the man who has no interest in it. He is a class of man that isn't good enough for the job, for it is not at all probable that he will do it properly and carefully. The milker who can take a careful interest in his work, watch to see that his work is clean, that the cow is at her comfort, will weigh the milk and not if the cow is gaining or losing, is a far superior kind of man to the fellow who merely regards milking as an odious task. He is worth more money because he is a higher type of man, because he takes a deep interest in the most profitable departure of the farm, and because he gets more out of it.

Kindness and quietness cannot be too strongly emphasized. This is true in the case of any milch cow, but it is of more importance with the most profitable kind. Deep milkers possess a higher nervous organization, they are more easily excited, and the results of it are more emphatic. When a cow is nervous she will "let down" her milk, and her production falls off.

Some men who have been accustomed to scrub cows all of their lives, who have never learned the importance of avoiding rough treatment, have found that when they invested their money in cows of a higher class, with better dairy breeding, they have not given them the expected results. They did not know how to handle them.

To obtain the best results in milking it is always the best rule to see that the cow is quiet and contented. Sometimes, if a cow shows any excitement, it is best to leave her for a while and milk some other cow first. Only the observant man can do this. If the milker approaches the cow quietly, speaking a few gentle words, and rubs down the udder very easily and gently, seats himself quietly, there is little danger of exciting her, and the results will be best. To obtain the best results the motions of the hand when milking should be such as not to become unpleasant to the cow. Squeezing the teats with the points of the fingers is a bad practice; they should be grasped with the full hand. All twisting or pinching should be most carefully avoided. It is when experiencing no annoyance whatever that the secretion of milk will become the most active.

For making feeds more palatable there is nothing better than molasses. Don't feed too much of it, however, especially to pregnant animals.

Feeding animals is nowadays a science as well as an art. The feeder who would feed to greatest profit will know the science as well as the art.

Never feed musty or tainted feed to pregnant animals. If it must be used, feed it to dry milk cows or fattening animals.

There is nothing to beat rape pasture for lambs that have just been weaned. When turning them on, however, care must be taken that the pasture is not wet.

CASTORIA

Für Säuglinge und Kinder  
IN GEBRAUCH SEIT MEHR ALS 30 JAHREN  
Immer mit der Unterschrift von *Carl H. Plittner*



THELMA, Alta., Sept. 13, 1918.

The Courier:—

Enclosed you will find \$2.00 being the subscription price for another year for The Courier. The weather at present is very dry and hot after the frost. The farmers are still busy making hay but the hay crop will not be a very good one. I presume that during the winter months we will have to count with a great scarcity of feed. The grain crop is also a very poor one, and the straw can hardly be utilized as feed as it is very short. In spite of all this the people don't seem to get discouraged altogether for a great many weddings have taken place lately, and signs are prevailing that others are to follow. Mr. Paul Roemer was united in the holy bond of matrimony with Miss Christine Bohner, and Henry Steiner with Miss Christine Pfaff. For September 15, the marriage of Henry Wolf with Martha Ströh is announced. I beg to congratulate and should like to advise all of them not to fail to subscribe for The Courier, for a married life without a good newspaper isn't worth living.

Best greetings to the members of the families Weslowski and Brandt. The boys of said families were my best chums when we were residing in Regina; also greetings to the rest of my friends and finally to all subscribers of The Courier.

BERNHART BOHNER.

LUSELAND, Sask., Sept. 16.

Dear Editor:—

On Sunday last when I went to church I was told that the "Sask. Courier Publ. Co." had ceased publishing "Der Courier" in the German language. At first I was not inclined to believe the rumors but when on Thursday I went to the post office and learned that no paper in the German language had arrived I began to think that there must be some truth in the rumors. Kindly advise me by return mail whether it is really true that you have ceased publishing "Der Courier" in the German language. If it is so, then kindly let me have the paper in the English language, as I surely don't want to be without my house friend "Courier," for which I have subscribed so many years, and with which I have been satisfied ever since I read the first copy. I sincerely hope that the paper will not have ceased appearing altogether, and if not, that every German-Canadian who has been reading "Der Courier" in the German language, will not fail to support the new enterprise, which is still under the management of the well known editor who, no doubt, in the past knew well how to defend our interests. He surely will know how to do it in future. Again, I want the paper, no matter whether in the German or English language.

Yours truly,  
JOHN L. THADEN.

To the Farmers of Western Canada

We are not giving in the Press this year our forecast of the markets as we have been doing for several years past as we find that we are not getting the patronage we feel we deserve in view of the benefit which our advice has been to the farmers. We will, however, be glad to give this advice to those who will ship us their grain, which we think you will agree is a fair proposition.

If your grain is in any Elevator, order it shipped to us, sending your tickets and car number. Please note that the Grain Act distinctly states that Elevator Companies must ship grain to whom they are ordered. (See Grain Act, Sec. 100). Insist on sending your own grain to whom you like.

McBEAN BROS.

Winnipeg, August 1st, 1918.

Grain Exchange.

SHEEP FOR SALE

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is prepared to supply high grade ewes from one to four years of age to Saskatchewan farmers on the following terms:—

\$400.00 worth supplied on quarter cash basis; \$1,000.00 worth supplied on half cash basis, balance payable July, 1919, and December 1, 1919, with interest at 6 per cent.

These ewes are a choice lot, mostly sired by Oxford, Shropshire and Suffolk rams.

For particulars apply to  
A. M. SHAW  
Live Stock Commissioner REGINA, Sask.

HEIFERS FOR SALE

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture is prepared to supply grade heifers, yearlings and two-year-olds, of the Shorthorn, Hereford and Angus breeds to Saskatchewan farmers on the following terms:—

One-third cash with order, balance payable December, 1919, and December, 1920, with interest at 6 per cent.

These heifers are well bred, all good colors, straight and growthy, just the kind for foundation stock.

For further particulars, apply to  
A. M. SHAW  
Live Stock Commissioner REGINA, Sask.

FOR YOUR KIND CONSIDERATION

We have the honor to announce, that we have now opened a Garage besides our Implement Business, and that we have secured the services of a first class mechanic. We are now in a position to attend to all

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