

NOXIOUS WEEDS OF ONTARIO

INTRODUCTION.

There is probably no question of greater moment to the farmers of Ontario than that of weeds. The greatest of vigilance is required to prevent their introduction; and acquaintance with methods and unceasing effort are necessary to their eradication. Reports from many sections throughout the province indicate that the farmers have slackened their efforts towards eradication during the past two seasons. The chief reason for this is that labor has been so very high that farmers hesitated to employ men at wages that does not give some immediate return. Then, again, there are a few farmers in every locality who never have given much, if any, attention to the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds. This is discouraging to the farmer who has been making an effort to keep his farm clean.

The Department wishes to sound a note of warning that unless farmers use every care in the selection of their seed, especially the clover and grass seed, and also make an effort to prevent the further spread of weeds, the result will be most disastrous to the agriculture of the province.

In order that the farmers may be able to identify a number of the most troublesome weeds, and also be given information as to the most approved methods of eradication, it has been arranged that each deputation sent to Farmers' Institute meetings will be furnished with mounted specimens of weeds. These mounted specimens will be exhibited at each Institute meeting, and the information given herewith will be found of value to those who are making an effort to overcome one of the greatest enemies the farmer has.

It will be remembered that the Department published a weed bulletin in which were given cuts of some forty weeds. The supply is exhausted, but it is the intention to get out a revised edition at an early date. Those who wish to secure a copy of this may do so by applying to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.

By PROF. GEO. E. DAY, ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, ONT.

One of the great secrets of success in fighting any class of weeds is to commence the fight as soon as the weeds appear, and not allow them to become well established all over the farm before any serious effort is made to eradicate them. When some of our worst weeds, such as wild oats, wild mustard, perennial sow thistle, bind weed, couch grass, etc., have become distributed all over a man's farm, it would cost almost the price of the farm to thoroughly eradicate them. If they are taken in time, however, the chances for keeping them in check are much better. In any case, efforts to keep weeds in check should never be relaxed, and while it may seem up-hill work, at the same time well directed effort for a number of years will eventually lessen the number of weeds on the worst infested farm, though it is probable that more than a lifetime would be required to thoroughly eradicate them.