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Waste No Time
on common separators, for they will not satisfy you. You will always remember you might have had a later and a better one, and regret that you did not get a Tubular in the first place.

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perts on the habits of the crow as follows:

"The crow is a much abused bird, and it is time someone said a good word for his old black coat," remarked Dr. C. Hart Merriam, chief of the biological survey.

"Instead of being an enemy of the farmer, as is generally believed," continued Dr. Merriam, "the crow is one of his best friends and the protector of his crops. True, during corn planting time, the crow's bill is turned against the farmer—during one month, and that month only, he is his enemy. But during the other eleven months the crow is really working overtime for him. It eats thousands upon thousands of destructive insects and bugs every week, and when it comes to feeding its young, gives them a diet composed almost entirely of worms and insects that prey upon the crops.

"Therefore, it makes me righteously indignant every time I see anyone try to kill a crow. These trials, however, are not very often crowned with success, for the crow has become one of the wisest of wild creatures, the result of hundreds of years of persecution and misunderstanding. The value of many of our birds is unfortunately unknown to the farmers whom they are striving so hard to protect. The oriole, for instance, is the only bird that will eat the fuzzy caterpillars which are so destructive to many varieties of trees. Were it not for the woodpeckers there would be no forests, for they go after and keep down the enormous numbers of worms that attack the trees."

Does Education Pay?

It has come to our attention that within the last year a young man who took the creamery course at the Pennsylvania dairy school, and who was employed at a salary of \$60 per month asked for a small raise in wages. His employer short-sightedly refused, and the young man accepted another position. A new man was hired at a salary of \$50 per month, thus saving the creamery \$10. During the month the new man handled 49,000 pounds of butter fat, but the over-run fell from 19 to 13 per cent. Alarmed at this decrease, the proprietor asked the former butter maker to return and help him restore the over-run. He came back for a month and put the over-run up where it had been before, thus demonstrating that it was his skill which secured the higher over-run.

Six per cent. over-run lost on 49,000 pounds of butter fat, would amount to at least 3,469 pounds of butter. Allowing that this butter sold for 25c. a pound, which, as a matter of fact, was below the market price for that month, the loss to that creamery in one month was over \$869, but they saved \$10 by putting in the cheap butter maker, and lost \$869 in butter.

This instance carries two lessons, one for the creamery management which refuses to pay a fair salary to the man who earns it by demonstrating that he can deliver the goods.

The butter maker is worth to himself all that he can get; he is worth to the creamery in proportion to the money he can make for them.

The butter maker must first equip himself to do the work in such a way as to be worth to the creamery what he asks, as did this young man.

This year this young man will receive at least a half more salary than he did before he and his former employer realized his efficiency.

An interesting contrast to this story is that of a co-operative creamery in our state employing another student of the dairy school. When he asked for a little raise the manager refused, and proposed to secure a cheaper man. The patrons heard about it, demanded that the directors take action and the result was a new manager. The butter maker got his increase. At the same time that this information came to my attention, it was said that this butter maker had done more for the general agricultural advancement in the community tributary to his creamery than any one man who had ever been in the community.

H. E. Van Norman, Professor of Dairy Husbandry.

Weeds and Soil Fertility.

Some of our common weeds contain a large amount of plant food. Common purslane and pigweed are richer in nitrogen than clover. Thus such weeds not only interfere with the growth of farm crops, but also rob the soil. For instance, when weeds are grown and cut with a grain crop they often take more nitrogen out of the soil than the grain does. Some farmers think they are safe in growing a crop of weeds, cutting them and burning. As the burning drives off all the nitrogen we can see what a wasteful practice this is. For some years we have used weeds for mulching around young trees, and the results have been surprising. We have long believed that our common ragweed is a potash plant, capable of obtaining large quantities of that element from the soil. When plowed under before the seed head is formed this weed makes an excellent green manure. A few sheep to eat up the weeds in fence corners and odd places will prove more useful than many a hired man.—Exchange.

Killing the Canadian Thistle.

There are several ways of fighting the Canadian thistle in the Maritime Provinces. Since it spreads rapidly from the root, merely keeping the plants from going to seed does not eradicate the thistle. Where a field or pasture is infected with only a few plants, the best and surest way is to entirely remove the plant, roots and all. The only known method of getting rid of this thistle where any considerable acres are thickly overgrown with it, is to strangle or choke it out of existence. Keep the leaves or shoots from getting any air, without which no plant can live.

Where the areas are not too large, a simple and inexpensive method is to cover with tar paper. This should cover the entire area so that no plants will survive. Lap the strips of paper and weigh down with dirt or rocks, though dirt is much more handy and serves the purpose just as well. In two months or even less the patch of thistles will be no more.

If there are numerous patches of this pest in a field, plant to roots and give thorough and frequent surface cultivation. Use a cultivator with cutting blades rather than the ordinary shovels; for there is less danger of uprooting and dragging the plants along only to start another patch. Where a plant can not get a good growth of foliage the root must necessarily die. Continue to cultivate after roots have been harvested, if there are any thistles left. Do everything possible to eradicate this weed or it will cause much trouble.

Flax Growing.

It is well known to most persons interested in flax that the crop has never been a permanent one in any section excepting, possibly, certain small areas of Belgium and Holland. The seed crop used for oil and the various by-products has never been a constant crop anywhere. It has, on the contrary, been looked upon as a crop especially suited to new lands; and the farmers have usually assumed that it could only be raised on new land. Many men of considerable ability have asserted that the crop is very destructive to soil fertility and explain the loss of the crop after the third or fourth year as being due to the withdrawal by the flax plant of certain types of soil fertility. It may be said that practically all of the old theories with regard to this matter of flax cropping have been found to be without ground. It has been found that flax does not draw more nourishment from the soil or even as much as any one of our other cereal crops. It has been found that it does not need rich land in the same sense that some of these crops do. It has been found that it does not need loose soil, as is usually advocated for it. Indeed, it has been found that most of the troubles of the crop are due to the presence of diseases which are introduced into the soil by way of the seed and which remain there.



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