

ing weeds before seeding on their premises more than are the municipalities through their officers on the public highways. Why farmers are so careless in this matter it is hard to conceive, and why the law is not better enforced it seems hard to understand.

It may be asked "why enact more stringent laws to prevent weeds, certain kinds at least, from spreading, when the good laws we now have are so frequently ignored?" There is reason for the remark. It may be that many officers of the municipality this year did not know that the law relating to the destruction of weeds on the highways had been changed back to what it was a few years ago when it was the duty of the path-master or road overseer to see that the weeds on his road-beat were destroyed. Placing the onus for their destruction on the owner or occupant of lands adjoining roadsides was somewhat unjust and hard to enforce. It is to be regretted this year that so many roadsides have been neglected. Officers of the law should look after this matter more closely. In very many instances a mower to cut a swath or two would have done the work.

The Ontario Legislature could not pass a better law to check the spread of weeds or aid in their destruction than to control more effectively the multiplication of the roadside curs, to the prohibition point almost, and encourage the breeding of sheep, and even allowing them the privilege of foraging on the public highways where practicable. There is no more useful agent in weed destruction than sheep. Breed more sheep and less curs, and the weeds will fast disappear.

#### EDUCATION ON WEEDS

In the fight against weeds, there are not a few who advocate educating the public in weed life and their destruction. It may be said that both the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture are doing a good deal along that line. The bulletins on weeds showing the cuts of a number of them in colors such as the one on farm weeds sent to the rural public schools and libraries throughout the Dominion by the Seed Branch and the one sent out by the Provincial Department, of which there was a second edition published, are great helps in moulding public opinion. Our hope is in the youth of our country and too much cannot be done to make them wise on this important question; but if we stopped at education we would fail to accomplish the ends sought, the checking of their spread and their entire eradication. We must have effective laws and the proper machinery to enforce them.

What good will education do unless it enlightens the conscience, very rapidly indeed, in checking the introduction of some weeds common in the western provinces of Canada, but which are being more or less introduced and distributed through the purchase of feed grain and screening by flour and feed men, millers, and even farmers during the past winter? Surely it is high time the Provincial Legislature made some restrictions on the wholesale introduction and destruction of weed seeds from the West, which is now going on and will continue to go on, if the strong arm of the law does not interfere.

What about that notorious Perennial Sow Thistle too? Are we to wait for enlightenment and let the careless and ignorant farmer allow his crop of thistles to mature so that the wind will pick them up and distribute them indiscriminately all over the neighborhood where they are found? There is nothing on our Ontario Statutes now to prevent this being done. The law as it now stands prevents a municipal officer from destroying any kind of weed in a crop where, destroying the weed, the grain would be injured. We need this law broadened somewhat to cover at least the Perennial Sow Thistle along the lines adopted by Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Governments.

The Dominion law known as the Seed Control Act needs amending to be more effective in pre-

venting the commerce in weed seeds both in the small and large seeds. The law has already had a good effect in preventing the wholesale distribution of weed seeds in this way; yet in allowing the sale of as many as five noxious weed seeds per thousand it admits of the sale of too dirty seed, as at that rate it allows about 1,450 to be sold in a pound of Red Clover seed. The law allows of the sale of a grade of seed bordering on screenings which while not containing many of the prohibited weed seeds, may contain very large quantities of seeds of foxtail, sheep sorrel, stickseed, lady's thumb, pig weed, lambs' quarters, etc., of which nearly every farm now has more than its quota.

Space forbids of the greater elaboration of this question. What is most to be desired, however, in this fight to a finish against weeds, is the hearty co-operation on the part of all concerned, the farmer to use and grow only pure seed, the dealers to handle only such goods in a retail way at least. Let the rubbish be burnt, the inferior grades exported, and the very best kept for home



Weeds.

Owing to a shortage of labor, the weeds were allowed to take possession of this orchard during the past summer. When photographed by our representative, these weeds had fully matured their seed. Such instances as this go a long way in support of those farmers who are agitating for special legislation to control weeds in Ontario.

This coupled with the use of good farm implements to which are attached strong horses and the whole outfit directed by brains will tell most effectively in the warfare against weeds. We appeal to the young people on the farms to help us.

#### Harvesting and Storing Potatoes

J. O. Laird, Kent Co., Ont.

Not a few boys have felt very much like leaving the farm, when made to pick up potatoes on a cold wet day the later part of October, or perhaps even in November. Potatoes should be dug in September, or at least during the early part of October. If a farmer is raising 10 acres or more, it would pay him to invest in one of the best known potato diggers,—although good work can be done with a potato plough, an ordinary plough, or the old fashioned shovel plough. When a plough is used, every second row is dug and picked up, before the remaining rows are dug.

Care should be taken not to leave the potatoes exposed too long to the sun, if the weather is very warm. The potatoes may be taken to the barn or place of storing in bags or in bulk in a wagon box, or a very handy way is to have some crates made for this purpose, holding a bushel each.

Potatoes are usually stored in a cellar, or in pits. The cellar for storing is perhaps the least risky, if it is warm enough to keep out the frost in the most severe weather. The cellar should be cool rather than one that has a high tempera-

ture owing to the presence of a furnace or something of that nature.

When the potatoes are placed in the cellar for winter it is a good plan to sprinkle a small quantity of air-slacked lime upon them. This dries up any moisture, and the potatoes will always come out in the spring very fine and crisp.

If the potatoes are pitted, they should not be placed in the pit until cold weather. It has been found that long narrow pits are the most satisfactory. The ground should be excavated to a depth of about two feet. The pit should of course be placed on land that is drained, naturally or otherwise. After digging the pit, place about three or four inches of straw in the bottom, and then put in the potatoes, leaving them about a foot and a half above the surface of the ground, and nicely rounded off, so that when the pit is covered it will shed the rains freely. The covering consists, first of fine or six inches of straw, and then about four inches of earth, and then the pit might be left this way until the weather becomes pretty cold, when an additional six or seven inches of earth should be put on, and about six inches of manure on top of the earth. This covering should keep out the frost in the most severe weather. After the very cold weather is over in the spring, it is well to remove the manure, and as soon as the hard frosts are over and the spring more advanced, they should be removed, because if allowed to remain too long, they may heat and sprout—badly, or even spoil entirely.

#### A Dairy Farm Run on Business Principles

A farm from which \$12,000 worth of milk is sold in a year is one that has to be run on up-to-date principles and which requires good business management. Such a farm is that owned by Mr. J. Ernest Caldwell, of Carlton Co., Ont. Mr. Caldwell makes a specialty of selling milk in the city of Ottawa. Eight to 10 men are kept employed by Mr. Caldwell all the time, either working on the farm, or delivering milk in the city. Up to this year, Mr. Caldwell farmed 210 acres. This year, he purchased an adjoining farm, comprising 93 acres. Sixty-five head of cattle are kept summer and winter. Two rigs are required to deliver the milk in the city, three men being kept busy, delivering milk all the time.

Mr. Caldwell buys his cows each year. "I buy them," said Mr. Caldwell, to a representative of The Canadian Dairymen and Farming World, who visited his place recently, "because I can get a more even supply of milk. We have to have the same amount of milk the year round. My cows average 7,000 to 8,000 lbs. of milk each last year. They are kept anywhere from three months to two years depending upon their value as milkers. As a rule, they are kept nearly a year. Most of them are bought in February, March and April. They are sold for beef purposes shortly before they become dry, and as I sell them, I buy others. In the spring, as a rule, I sell about five and replace them with three fresh milkers. In the summer, I purchase enough additional animals to keep up the flow of milk."

#### GOOD WATER SUPPLY A NECESSITY

Mr. Caldwell was born in 1862, on the farm which he now occupies. His father settled on it in 1847, and had to clear the land. Mr. Caldwell has been running the farm for 20 years. He is a great believer in the value of a good water system on the farm. "I regard a water system," said Mr. Caldwell, "as one of the prime essentials of a home, not to say of a dairy farm. The water should be absolutely pure, that is free from contaminations of all kinds. On a farm such as mine, where so many cattle are kept and where so much water is required for washing the milk cans and dairy utensils, I estimate that a good water supply is worth a thousand dollars a year. Not that I would pay that for it, but an inadequate supply would lose me that much. Every farmer knows that in a dry season, the production of his