

*What Municipalities do.*

Our municipal organisations are also more or less actively engaged in this problem. They are all required by law to engage weed inspectors, and their inspectors are required under penalty to perform certain duties. Many municipalities have even gone further and engaged special men to act in a special capacity as agricultural secretaries. And while many municipalities have shown by their generous support of these agricultural secretaries that they are keenly alive to the necessity of spending their revenue for the promotion of the interests of better farming there are people who think that our municipalities as a whole should do more than they have done just as there are others who think that the provincial government should appoint all weed inspectors and administer The Weeds Act in its entirety.

*Every Farmer his own Weed Inspector.*

But, let me emphasise again with all the force possible and as clearly as the English language will express it, the fact that no government whether federal, provincial or municipal, can effectively control noxious weeds until the man who grows weeds and thereby loses money sees that he himself must in the last analysis be his own weed inspector and weed eradicator. What would be thought of the man who though suffering from smallpox or other serious disease would neglect to have treatment until ordered by the government to take care of himself? What would be thought of a farmer who would allow the gophers to eat up his grain because the municipality did not order him to poison them? And what must we think of the man who indifferently allows noxious weeds to occupy 5, 10, 20 per cent. of his land, crowding out the same per cent. of his crop and cutting his revenue accordingly? No, Mr. Chairman, this is less, far less, a question of governmental responsibility than of individual responsibility—the responsibility of the man who is growing crops, and until he recognises it in its true aspect the noxious weeds problem will still be unsolved.

*Councillors have the responsibility to educate.*

But while this is so, and the responsibility of municipal councils is well recognised, I wish at this point to suggest that there is a responsibility resting upon councillors to perform a further service by helping indifferent farmers to see the true situation. Careless farmers must face the facts. They must wake up. Councillors can assist by arranging with the agricultural college to hold meetings to discuss weed problems; by distributing bulletins; by supporting the agricultural society in its work; by helping the grain growers' associations to hold standing crop competitions and seed grain fairs; and by no means last, by encouraging the teachers in rural schools to know noxious weeds, to teach noxious weeds and to have the children know, look for, and collect noxious weeds.

*Work in Public Schools:*

Wonderful results were obtained in 1915 by Mr. J. M. Pratt, agricultural secretary in Lost River Municipality, through competitions for the boys and girls in the public schools of that municipality in gathering and identifying noxious weeds, and in reporting neatly and accurately the