

A thrift which characterizes all new and promising farming sections. Drouth is something which inspires no dread in the minds of the farmers of the valleys through which we ride. The facilities for irrigation are most admirable. Ditches stretching for miles in length, and carrying immense volumes of water, skirt the hillsides along the bottom, from which the grateful element can be diffused over thousands of arable acres at will. Timber, if not of the most superior quality, is abundant for fuel, fencing and building.

We do not wish in our remarks on this section, to be understood as disparaging any other agricultural portion of Colorado. All along the valley of the Platte, the Cache la Poudre, the elder, Thompson, Clear Creek, and a few other streams, extensive agricultural improvements have been made, and, we presume, with fully flattering results. But we have made special mention of our southern farming interests, because we have fortunately passed through that promising region at the time when the bountiful harvest was just gathered, and when we could see and appreciate the facilities and adaptiveness of our bottom lands for agricultural purposes. We are fully convinced that after another year passes, no wheat, flour, corn, bacon, or animal food of any kind, will be freighted across the Plains to this territory.—*Exchange*.

Weedy Neighbours

There are few evils afflicting agriculturists so much as can compare with the mischief occasioned in a well-farmed district by the presence of a neighbour who *does not cut down his weeds*. In the present season, in some parts of the country, the air is actually filled with thistle-down; and, keep land as you may, if one has a *dirty neighbour*, high as it is in its true sense, is labour in vain. We cannot even hold proprietors guiltless in this matter of disseminating weeds; for in their woods and commons and warrens millions of seeds are hourly winging their way to the garden-like farms of their tenants. Our columns mention was lately made of the institution of a Chamber of Agriculture. Well, then, is a fertile subject for immediate consideration, and one about which the Chamber could with good grace go to the Legislature for protection. In the colonies, our forebrethren have long ago dealt with the matter in a business-like way; and particularly in the colony of Victoria, a very heavy penalty is enforced from any one who allows his weeds to go to seed.

Perhaps it may be thought by some to be inconsistent with British ideas of liberty and individual rights, to interfere in such a case; but we cannot perceive the slightest injustice in

putting down such a nuisance; and a nuisance, in every sense of the word, it is. It would be invidious to mention individual cases; but we presume there is scarcely one of our readers who possesses a clear-kept farm, who could not at once point to some promoters of this evil, so rife at this particular season, and who does not fully sympathize with his brother-farmer who lives alongside of a "weedy neighbour." Commons in general, or seaside links, are often the great hotbeds and nurseries of this pest of thistles; and we have heard it mentioned that one in East Lothian supplies thistles for nearly the whole country. In the absence of the proposed Chamber of Agriculture, perhaps the committees of some of our agricultural clubs will put down for discussion during the ensuing winter the subject of "Weedy Neighbours;" and we shall live in hopes of seeing a short bill passing the House of Commons, compelling every one to cut down his thistles before they go to seed, and wing their flight to the farms of those who are compelled most unwillingly to receive them.—*Scottish Farmer*.

Use of Leaves.

In many sections of our country, oak leaves are extensively used as bedding for domestic animals. They are gathered in the forests in autumn, and stored in some convenient place till wanted. This affords them time to dry, which increases their power of absorption, and renders them more valuable in taking up and preserving the liquid voidings, and also facilitates, through this means, the decomposition of the vegetable fibre when used as a manure. That oak or other kinds of leaves, operate powerfully when spread broadcast on the surface of mowing land, is unquestionable; yet this results not so much from the "astringent" matter they contain, as from the non-conducting power. We spread leaves around the trunks of trees, the blossoming of which it is desirable to retard in spring, we apply them also in "mulching," the object of which is to retain the moisture in the soil for the benefit of trees newly transplanted.

When they are spread upon the surface of grass lands, they present, to a very great extent, the action of the solar rays, and thus in a measure deprive the roots of the energizing and vitalizing influences upon which their strength and vigour very essentially depend. Whatever may be the effects produced by leaves, in their crude state upon cultivated vegetation, we see that they are eminently useful in woodlands, where, if they are removed annually, the growth is not only greatly retarded, but arrested.

In compost, also, we may often see the value of leaves tangibly exemplified, for experience has long assured us that few more really valua-