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EDITORIAL.

Make war on all noxious weeds at this season.

The better our farm methods, the less dependent we are upon weather conditions.

In some localities of Western Ontario the white-grub pest has become a menace. Old pastures breed them by the million.

Keep a dust mulch on the summer-fallow and hoe-crop land. It conserves moisture and ensures a better crop.

During the next week or two is a good time to sow some turnips. Even though a good crop of corn is expected, a few roots can be used to good advantage.

Official testing of pure-bred dairy cows, under the Canadian Record of Performance, is increasing with such rapidity that the Live Stock Branch can scarcely keep up with it. More inspectors are being added every year.

United States President Wilson has issued a trumpet blast against the tariff lobbyists at Washington as being "numerous, industrious and insidious." The latter two of those characterizations would apply to lobbyists everywhere.

The lobby of the Big Interests, which use both political parties as suits them, must be resisted by independence of thought and action among the electorate. Rules against lobbying would probably be of little avail. An irresistible force of unfettered public opinion is the best corrective.

The season for fitting stock for the fall exhibitions is at hand. Here is where the skilful feeder scores. A novice cannot bring his stock out in the bloom to do themselves credit, and he runs far more risk of ruining his animal's usefulness as a breeder. The putting on of all the finish that the animal will carry and doing it without injury to it, is one of the fine points of the game which it takes time to master, and many animals still prove non-breeders because of being overdone.

Thoroughness often counts for more than method. We once heard two experienced Ontario farmers discussing the best time for corn planting. One always planted his about the first of May; the other about the first of June. One wanted to gain time and was willing to risk having his crop cut by frost, claiming that it always came on again and beat out the later-sown. The other wanted the ground warm, and depended upon a rapid unchecked growth. Both claimed to have usually raised the best corn in their respective neighborhoods, and both laid much stress upon their time of planting. Two extremities had thus been sanctioned by experience. Perhaps the real secret was not the date of planting at all, but rich soil, good seed and thorough cultivation. Experience does not always prove what it is taken to prove.

The Bankers' Lobby at Ottawa.

If the revision of the Bank Act accomplished little else, it has, at least, served to bring out in bold relief the methods of the parliamentary lobby. Patient, ingenious and clever, suiting its action on the principle of all things to all men, it often succeeds when it seems to have failed. Legislation has a long and tortuous course through parliament. If one move fails the representatives of the Big Interests have plenty of chance to try another. And they do try every move from the Committee stage to the Senate. Catch the wary lobbyist leaving Ottawa before the last dog is hung! It is a most tremendous force of public opinion that cannot be at least partly euchred out of its purpose by a sufficiently adroit lobby. The revision of the Bank Act is a case in point. While the bill was under discussion in the Banking and Commerce Committee, the Bankers' Association was represented at Ottawa by five eminent King's Counsel and several parliamentary agents. As a rule they did not show their hand too conspicuously, but were always ready with a timely word or suggestion to talk members privately into line and keep tab on their attitude. When the division bells sounded their whip was on hand to fill the back benches with members who seldom attended the sittings. These back benches were usually numerous enough to turn the scale when progressive clauses were being voted upon, and when the bill emerged from the Committee after weeks of evidence and consideration, it embodied very few additional amendments of importance. Nor was it much improved by the Committee of the whole House. To his provision for a compulsory shareholders' audit, the Minister of Finance added a stipulation that the auditors should be chosen from a selected list approved by his department. Major Sharpe was so well satisfied with this plan that he dropped his amendment proposing a court or commission and no one else took it up, notwithstanding that public opinion has been asserting itself in favor. Another amendment, whose passage was probably assisted by Mr. McArthur's testimony before the Committee, forbade bank officials to accept presents of stock from companies whose operations they were financing. There was a provision requiring that a detailed statement of the financial condition of the bank be submitted to the shareholders annually, another requiring the sterilization of notes before re-issue, and one requiring the banks to maintain registry and transfer offices in every province where they do business. The concessions thus gained by the public were not much, but they were in the right direction. However, the bill has still to run the gauntlet of the Senate, that hoary bulwark of vested interests. The Senate amended it by cutting out the last three concessions, and on the return of the bill to the Commons the Minister of Finance condoned and accepted the changes, most of the government and nearly all the opposition members voting to sustain the Senate's amendments. This left the bill only a little better than the Bank Act of twenty years before. It is still very largely "a Banker's Bank Act."

Let no one suppose, however, that ground has not been gained. The public has just begun to awaken on the question, and by resisting the just demands of the people the Bankers have stimulated a force of opinion which may seriously curtail their privileges at the next revision, if not

sooner. Already it is making itself felt. As the Ottawa despatch in the Toronto World put it: "Growing dissatisfaction with the failure of parliament to deal with the grievances of the people when revising the Bank Act was evidenced in the House of Commons by a somewhat sensational debate, and a vote which cut a zig-zag line across the two political parties." The debate was characterized by very plain speaking. Arthur Meighen, a prominent government supporter, deplored the easy access which the lobbyists had to members of parliament, and believed some restriction would have to be placed upon their activities. When the Bank Act was before the House, he understood, the solicitor of the Banks sat on the floor of the Senate inside the rail, interrupting and interfering with the members of the Senate who desired to discuss the bill. J. B. Taylor said the lobby had been very active and persistent in the Banking and Commerce Committee and the corridors of the House. "We know many of these gentlemen by sight," he said, "and their activity has been very remarkable."

F. B. McCurdy, who has put up a splendid fight on the public behalf, complained that nearly every progressive amendment offered in the Committee had been voted down by members brought in for that purpose. Mr. McCurdy urged the appointment of a Monetary Commission to study the Banking and Currency situation, with a view to getting a better Bank Act than we now have. W. F. MacLean also favored such a commission.

Another significant statement was that of Hon. Mr. Oliver, who asserted that it took courage for a member to declare on the floor of the House where he stood on the banking question. A member took chances in opposing the banks.

Such, then, is the situation admitted by the more candid members. With fine-spun definitions of lobbying the public have no concern. It may not be lobbying, for instance, when an avowed corporation counsel, sitting on the floor of the Banking Committee, writes out questions and hands them to a sympathetic member to ply witnesses with, but it is a means of serving privileged interests all the same. However, it is all over for the present, and, having drawn attention to the means by which the popular demand was resisted, we may content ourselves with mentioning the names of the eight government and two opposition members who voted to resist the Senate emasculatory amendments:

Bennet (Calgary), Buchanan, Emmerson, MacLean (South York), McCurdy, Meighen, Nickle, Sexsmith, Stevens, Taylor.

About Weldwood.

From several quarters a desire has been expressed that we publish more about our own practical farming operations. We had feared that readers were being bored with references to Weldwood but it seems not, so far, at least, as the localities in question are concerned. Fortunately it is convenient to oblige, for there is no subject easier to write about. We do object, however, to publishing scrappy discursive notes about things in progress. We like to give facts and figures about improvements made, crops raised, or stock fed, and it takes time to summarize accurately data of this kind. However, we expect to have considerable material in the near future. Much work was done on the farm