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Easily Checked—Once.

The farmers of the Northwest are confronted with a new antagonist in a terrible weed called the Russian thistle. It is said to have caused the loss of \$40,000,000 during the past year. It spreads rapidly, and from a single root forms a mass two to six feet in diameter and half as high. About seventeen years ago the weed was introduced in flaxseed brought from Russia and sowed near Scotland, South Dakota. It was noticed at the time, but carelessly neglected when extermination would have been easy. In 1891 it became noticeably troublesome, and last year its ravages had extended over thirty thousand square miles, inflicting a loss of \$20,000,000. This year, besides the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska have been invaded. The most provoking thing about this and all similar invasions is that there was once a time, in every case, when the pest could have been destroyed by half an hour's work, while now the entire force of this great nation is baffled by it. In precisely the same way, there is a time in the growth of every evil habit when a little vigorous work and prayer will uproot it. If this is neglected, the pest becomes master of our soul's plantations, even more rapidly than the Russian thistle spread over the Dakotas. Is this an old truth? Never mind. It is a truth that needs repeating as long as there are weeds and habits.—Golden Rule.

Good Speaking.

There is a class of speakers who always attract me, who stand squarely on their heels, hold their heads up steadily and speak right out with ease and confidence. Their faces move in expression to the sentiment they are voicing. What gestures they make are the product of feeling, not for purpose. And what they say comes out in orderly manner, and they stop when they have ended their subject. They do not need to apply it. It applies itself. It seems impromptu, but it is too good to be so. It is long way from cant, and as far from prudery. It is studious but free. It has all the advantage of books and of conversation at once. It respects itself because it is the product of honest work, and it wins respect because it honors the occasion. Too much public speech limps, or hops; uses a cane or goes on a crutch. What it lacks is a little more work or confidence, often only a little. How many speakers are almost delightful! If they would only go a little further in their preparations; only complete what is so nearly satisfying.—The Advance.

Photographs.

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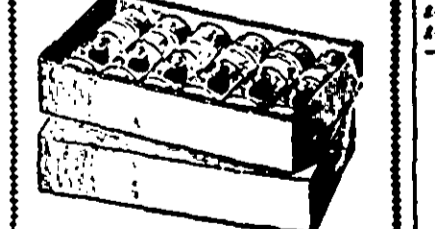
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