

DROWNING.

Drowning is not practicable on the average prairie farm, as it involves too much time and labour at a period when all available help is required for seeding and preparing the land.

SUFFOCATING.

The various methods of suffocation by heavy gases are extremely difficult, and are therefore not much used. Gasoline has recently been tried in the Western States, with, it is reported, fair success.

GOPHERS ON VACANT LANDS.

As gophers are found in large numbers on waste or unoccupied land, and since there are large areas of such land in the vicinity of most western farms, it becomes evident that it is not enough for a farmer to clear his own land of gophers, as a fresh colony will immediately take possession from the waste land near; the waste land as well as the farm itself must be attended to.

CO-OPERATION IN ATTACKS ON GOPHERS.

While in some districts, rural municipalities, farmers' unions, and even storekeepers, are co-operating, by the offering of prizes for the largest number of gophers killed in a certain period, and in this way hundreds of thousands are killed each spring, yet in many districts nothing like this is done, and the necessary work is left to individual effort. The offering of prizes to the young people of the community for this purpose would certainly greatly stimulate their efforts in this regard.

Where communities have acted in unison in distributing poison the results have been more generally beneficial than when only occasional farmers are using gopher poison. Organizations such as the local Farmers' Union have in many instances set apart a day known as "Gopher Day," when the whole community declares war and makes a general attack on the gophers. This idea is worthy of adoption by all such organizations in the West, and, when adopted, will certainly result in very materially reducing the loss due to gophers.

MUNICIPAL CONTROL.

According to the Provincial Law, the Rural Municipalities and Local Improvement Districts in Alberta have the power to levy a tax of two and a half cents per acre on unoccupied lands, to be expended on poison and for labour in distribution. A somewhat similar law is on the statute books of Saskatchewan.

It is possible something worth while could be done by the municipalities co-operating with the schools and allowing the children a bonus of, say, one cent per head for each gopher killed. Some municipalities in Saskatchewan adopted this method last year with great success.

Another practicable plan would be for the municipality to supply each farmer with sufficient poison for use on his own fields, and also on the prairie adjacent to them. The damage to the crops might thus be considerably lessened.