

## "The Noxious Weeds Problem"

SUMMARY OF AN ADDRESS BY HON. W. R. MOTHERWELL BEFORE THE  
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES, REGINA,  
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"If you want a thing done right, do it yourself." The man who relies upon the weed inspector to clean his land is liable soon to have no land to clean. Every farmer must be weed inspector and weed eradicator for himself. There is no magic about controlling weeds, no royal road to follow in killing them. The process is both laborious and costly. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" applies as truly to the prairie farmer who permits weeds to infest his fields as it did to the father of the human race when he started "back to the land." The seed of noxious weeds which is returned to the land is a menace until it loses its ability to grow, or until it grows, when it must be killed before it ripens seed if further trouble is to be averted. This destruction of seeds and plants cannot be done without cost in labour and without losing crops while cleaning the land.

### *Tendency to put Weeds Problem up to Government.*

These two truths must be emphasised—that there is a right way to control and kill weeds, and that the main responsibility for doing this rests with the man who is farming the land. There is too much tendency to expect the state as represented by the federal, provincial and municipal governments to intervene in the matter of weed control. Some good people would have the government take the initiative in this matter and the governments do, indeed, do much.

### *What Dominion does.*

For instance, let me refer to the work of the federal government through its seed commissioner whose influence is "positive" rather than "negative" through his endeavours to encourage the use of clean seed. He, also, exerts a restraining influence on those who sell seed containing noxious impurities. His influence is also educative, in that splendid bulletins dealing with noxious weeds are published and distributed by his office.

### *What Provincial Government does.*

Likewise the provincial government through their weed commissioners and inspectors endeavour to cause a better enforcement of The Noxious Weeds Act, a better knowledge of noxious weeds and a more general practice of good farming methods. Bulletins are also issued under the auspices of provincial authorities dealing with the noxious weeds problem. The agricultural colleges maintained and supported by provincial governments work ceaselessly to ascertain the methods of farming which will best control noxious weeds and solve the other problems of our agriculture.