

to have a commission order all weeds destroyed, but this commission cannot touch weeds except in such places where the crop will not be injured by the operations. It will be readily seen from this that the sow thistle is practically immune from the provisions of the Ontario law, as the sow thistles growing upon the fields of a careless farmer can seed down the whole neighborhood, through the agency of the wind. It is quite different in Manitoba. There, where a certain percentage of the crop is infested with weeds, an inspector compels the farmer to cut the crop. If he fails to comply with the inspector's orders, the inspector takes other means to have it cut, and charges it up to the owner in his taxes. Such a law is urgently needed in Ontario. Sow thistles should be cut before they have had time to seed. It would be in the interests of even the careless farmer to be coerced in this matter.

The sow thistle is worse in heavy clay soils than in soils of a lighter nature. Owing to its underground root stock, it is a difficult plant to eradicate. These root stocks act as a storehouse for the plant, where it can store up food for future use. The proper way to fight sow thistles and weeds of a kindred nature is to exhaust this storehouse of its food supply. This can be done by cutting off the top and allowing no leaves to appear above ground. Cultivators with broad shears are the best implements to destroy sow thistle. By keeping off all the leaves, the plants become smothered. Some of course take more killing than others. This cultivating operation should be kept up throughout the season. If such is done, there will be no seed and there will be no root stock left, consequently no sow thistle left.

A method which has worked out very satisfactorily in eradicating sow thistle is to pasture infested fields closely till the middle of June, then plow it, working up a fine tilth, and sowing with rape. Rape is much better than buckwheat for this purpose, as it can be sown later, thus allowing of more cultivation.

Field Crops Competition in Ontario

While referring to the standing field crops competition, which is being carried on in Ontario, Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, superintendent of Fairs and Exhibitions for Ontario, while calling at the office of The Dairyman and Farming World last week, said that fifty agricultural societies had taken up with the idea, and had entered in the competition. Up to the present there had been an average of 15 entries through each society. Each competitor, or field, entered, would average 10 acres. Thus a total acreage to date of some 7,500 or 8,000 acres, have been entered in this field crop competition.

What this means to the country, one realizes when it is known that the grain winning first, second and third prizes, in last year's contest, sold for seed purposes on an average of 25 to 50 per cent. higher than the ruling market prices. A quantity of this prize winning seed went over to Germany, one of the prize winners sending all of his prize grain to go to this country, receiving the handsome price of \$2.50 a bushel for the seed.

The importance of these standing field crop competitions to the farmers of Ontario, was never brought more noticeably to the department than during the past spring, when the West required hundreds of thousands of bushels of oats for seed purposes, and only 20,000 bushels of the amount required could be obtained from Ontario farmers. Where should this seed have been obtained but in Ontario? But the farmers of Ontario were not in a position to supply the quality of the seed demanded, hence the Dominion Department had to look elsewhere for it.

Agricultural societies have not taken up with

the competition this year as freely as they might have. Some of the officers, in fact the secretaries of 20 societies, never put the matter before the other members of the committees until they had been written to a second time. Agricultural societies must waken up in this respect, or they will before long be relegated to a back seat. Aside from the advantages of entering in such a competition, as well as the increased value of the prize winning seed, the five prizes themselves are well worthy of competition, being \$15, \$12, \$10, \$7 and \$5. The directors of each society decide the class of crop which is to be entered. This crop is usually the one most widely grown in that locality. Then individual entries of this crop are made by the members of the society. The judges are supplied by the Dominion Department, they being supplied at a probable cost of \$3,000. The Ontario Government puts up \$30 of the prize money, the society the other \$20. The society, however, is not out this \$20, as this amount is entered up in their total expenditures for agricultural purposes, and, as the grant is reckoned upon this basis, a large proportion of it is returned. The society may charge an entry fee if they choose. Aside from the other advantages of these competitions, the societies have the advantage of having an expert judge come to their locality to lecture after the judging, and give their reasons for the placing.

A New Wrinkle in Unloading Hay

A very fertile cause of hay spoiling in the mow may be traced to the manner in which it is dumped into the barn. Hay should not be dumped in by means of the hay fork and left just as it falls after the fork is tripped. Mr. Glendinning of Manilla, while calling upon The Dairyman and Farming World recently, said he always used a logging chain to attach the hay fork to the ear. In this way, the lift hung much lower in the mow and did not have so far to drop. When slung from a chain in this manner, a great deal of labor was saved in the mow as one could get a good swing on the lift while the operator on the load tripped it. In this way, it was possible to place the hay practically where it was wanted in the mow.

Where this method is practised, considerable labor not only will be saved but the hay will keep better as it will be mowed much more evenly. To facilitate the working of this logging chain, Mr. Glendinning has removed the cross beam from his barn and uses instead ingeniously devised rods at the peak of the barn, which do not interfere with the working of the unloading car.

Concerning the Telephone

E. Sykes, Souris County, Man.

What would we do without a telephone? By being without this machine, we would disconnect ourselves from the outer world, drive 20 miles for a doctor, or a veterinary surgeon, and by so doing lose the sick one, or the crippled horse. While we were driving into town to find out the price of wheat, our neighbor would find out, and sell his wheat for ten cents a bushel more than we. We would have to sit in-doors all through the long days of winter, talking to ourselves, when, if we had a phone, we could enjoy a hearty conversation with our near, yet distant, neighbor. We would have to hitch up our team in weather 60 degrees below zero, and drive to town for coal, and, perhaps, when we get there, find there was no coal to be had. By the use of the telephone, this long journey could be avoided. This is the cry of the farmers who, once having his phone, would never be without it.

The question will arise, "How are we to organize a rural telephone line?" First, all one's neighbors should be gathered together to talk

the question over, and find out all who really intend having the phone. Then obtain signed agreements from those farmers who propose installing a machine. After these preliminaries, appoint a committee or board of directors, who will act as trustees for the shareholders, (remembering that every mickle makes a muckle, and every little makes a lot of shares.) The next step is to mark out a plan of the routes, and the cost of installation. This is how the phone can get into a neighborhood to cheer the young and old folks, and bring compound interest to our share of the capital.

The cost of a farmers' telephone line is, approximately, \$100 a mile. This allows for 34 poles (25 feet in length insulators, etc., and the double wire system of No. 12 wire; also allowing for leading in covered wire. This, however, does not include the phone. When buying a phone, do not get a cheap one, but get the best value for your money.

Granted that you have purchased your plant from a reliable telephone manufacturing company, commence to build, having before you always the thought if the work is done well, there will be less cost for maintenance. Set the poles at least four feet in the soil, pounding the soil around them as solid as possible near the heel of the pole as well as the ground surface. Never half fill up the holes. Next fix up your stay wires so as not to pull the poles over. When stretching the line wire, use discretion in straining up. Leave about five inches of sag in about 150 feet of span, if put up in the summer, or about three inches if they are strung in very cold weather. This is very important in order to keep down the cost of maintenance, as well as avoiding inconvenience to subscribers. The cost of maintenance is very little, providing the line is well constructed, especially if each farmer helps to keep his portion of the line in order. Where the line is properly constructed, there should be little more expense in connection with maintenance than the cost of new batteries once a year.

Be sure to have good ground wires placed eight feet below the surface to insure protection for your phone. One should not waste his batteries by leaving the receiver off the hook. Never hold the line when it is wanted by your neighbor. Any Canadian telephone company will help you out with expert advice, and supply you with efficient electrical equipment. Local town systems are a separate proposition from rural lines, and may be dealt with in another article.

The cultivator should be started in the corn as soon as possible after the corn is up. Cultivating should be continued at least once a week until silking time but not after.—J. C. Thomas, Essex Co., Ont.

Weeds rob the soil of food elements required by other plants. While there is usually more than enough plant food for all plants in almost every soil, the amount in a readily available form is limited, and the greater the number of plants among which it is divided the slower and less vigorous will be the growth of all.—Vernon H. Davis, Ohio State University.

My haying outfit consists of a side delivery rake and loader in addition to the other implements generally made use of in hay making. The side delivery rake and loader are both favorites with me, and in fact I do not think I would care to farm without them. With a good ordinary crop of hay to take off, much labor is saved by making use of these implements. Of course, one needs to exercise some care and judgment in their use and where such is observed, a good quality of hay can be made and taken off with much less labor than where old methods of haying are practised.—Chas. G. Patten, Wellington Co.