

Experimental Farm and driving through the district, making observations on the occurrence of noxious weeds and insects. A pleasant visit was paid to the Indian Industrial School near Fort Qu'Appelle on the 4th. The most noticeable weeds in this district were the Tumbling Mustard and the Hare's-Ear Mustard (*Erysimum orientale*), two most aggressive members of the Cress family which have been introduced into this district and have been allowed to spread to a most alarming extent. Every effort was made to draw the attention of settlers to the danger of neglecting these plants. It must be acknowledged that for some reason there has been in the past great negligence on the part of many in this respect. This may be partly due to the fact that the Tumbling Mustard had been generally spoken of in the district under the name of Tumbling Weed, an appellation which really belongs to a member of the Amaranth Family, which is not nearly of so pernicious a nature as the Tumbling Mustard, so that many, when hearing the Tumbling Mustard spoken of as simply Tumbling Weed, had supposed that it was merely the ordinary Tumble Weed of the West, and had neglected to fight it whilst it occurred only in small numbers. Hare's-Ear Mustard was also attracting much attention, and specimens had been sent in to Mr. Mackay from many farms for identification, some of these at points more than twenty miles from the railway.

I returned to Brandon on the 7th of July. On the 8th, I visited the Experimental Farm, and in the afternoon was driven by Mr. Bedford to see some of the farms in the neighbourhood. The following morning, upon invitation of the reeve, I went with Mr. Bedford to the City Hall and delivered an address before the municipal council upon noxious weeds, which was listened to with interest. The next three days were taken up in attending meetings of the Farmers' Institute. This convention was most successful and was largely attended by the best farmers of the province. I delivered two addresses, one on the evening of the 10th in the City Hall, and another at a large out-door meeting held on the Experimental Farm on the 11th. This latter meeting was attended probably by seven or eight hundred people, and, besides my own address, excellent speeches were made by the President of the Institute and the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Attorney General for Manitoba. The convention closed on the 11th and I continued my journey westward.

Beautiful flower gardens were noticed along the route, particularly at Indian Head, Moose Jaw and Regina, many common garden annuals, such as petunias, stocks, Portulaca, sweet peas, marigolds and phlox, flourishing with great luxuriance. Owing to the late and copious rains, the prairies this year from Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains presented one continuous expanse of beautiful verdure. A constantly changing panorama passed before the eyes of one looking out from the railway train. The soft green of the waving grasses which clothed the immense plains and rolling hills, was varied by a succession of charming prairie flowers of every hue, sometimes in single specimens, at others spreading out into gorgeous patches of acres in extent. Everywhere wild prairie roses, only a few inches in height, but a mass of blossoms shading from pure white to deep red, patches of Painted Cups (*Castilleja*) flaming scarlet or rose pink. On islands and on clay banks rose purple masses of Spider Plant (*Cleome integrifolia*) were seen, and here and there spikes of White and Yellow Evening Primroses, myriads of Orange Lilies (*Lilium Philadelphicum*), or sturdy spikes of Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa*) among these the slender prairie clovers *Petalostemon violaceum* and *P. candidum* threw up their bright heads of crimson or white flowers beset with golden anthers. Clumps of purple or yellow *Astragali* and tufts of the pink flower spikes of *Hedysarum boreale*, standing up above the tops of the prairie grasses. Following the course of a trail or of a dried up slough were bands of bright yellow "Resin weed" (*Grindelia squarrosa*). Large patches of the silver-leaved Sweet Sage (*Artemisia frigida*) showed where land had been broken and then neglected; in similar places could be seen rank Chenopods standing high up above the surrounding vegetation. Where alkali patches occurred, the snow-white deposit was frequently circled with a ring of blood red samphire (*Salicornia*) or one of the many western species of Orache (*Atriplex*). Objects of great beauty were large beds of the troublesome Skunk-tail grass (*Hordeum jubatum*) of which the pale green silky heads now fully expanded and touched by late frosts