

OTHER PHASES OF WEED CONTROL

The attention of the agricultural secretary to the indifferent and careless farmer is but a part of the work. There is seed grain to be found for men who would use clean seed if they knew just where to obtain it. All new seed imported into a municipality must be inspected. Many new weeds are brought in by new settlers and by the importation of feeding stuffs for use in the working up of new lands.

An important part of the secretary's work is to attend to the weeds on waste and vacant lands. A great deal of this work can be done in February and March much better than in August. The short time inspector coming to a piece of waste land in midsummer is unable to deal with it properly, because he does not know who owns the land, nor what complaints, if any, have been made regarding its care. He does not know where he can get the necessary help, and he is at a loss to know how to proceed. The qualified man can get in touch with this particular case in February or March and take the matter up with the owner, and in a great many cases will be able to arrange by the permission of the owner to have these lands summerfallowed or otherwise cared for. Again, in practically every municipality a man acquainted with the districts knows of a number of pieces of land that will require going over, or perhaps ploughing, and he knows in March just as well as he would know in June that it is up to him to find some one to do his work. A neighbouring farmer can plan in March to do some extra work in July ten times as easily as he can plan on the first of July to do a little extra work, and for this reason alone attention early in the season makes it much easier and much cheaper to get necessary work undertaken.

The objection is sometimes raised that it is physically impossible for one man to handle all the work of the municipality, but the experience of agricultural secretaries has proven that the number of bad cases requiring personal attention in midsummer is not too many for the attention of one man, for the simple reason that the work he has carried out during February, March, April and May has eliminated practically all of the cases which under the old system would require attention during the growing season. As stated above the knowledge that proper attention is going to be given to all questions makes fewer questions for the attention of the agricultural secretary. Each farmer will be his own weed inspector from choice or necessity.

WEEDS IN GRASS SEEDS

Due to the propaganda being carried on through the agricultural press, a great number of farmers are sowing small patches of alfalfa, clover and grass. This is the surest possible source of supply for new weeds. Through proper development of the agricultural secretarial work every sample can be examined before being sown. Many farmers have this spring sown alfalfa seed infested with Russian thistle, brome grass seed infested with quack grass; they are sowing stink weed in rye grass and night flowering catchfly in alsike clover, and Canada thistle and perennial sow thistle in fodder mixtures, simply because there is no ready means of