

The hay crop was an excellent one, owing to the favourable season, and all garden produce was exceptionally abundant and of good quality. The only injurious insect of which the presence was particularly noticeable was what is known as the "Silver-top of Hay"; this was chiefly in meadows which had not been broken up for many years.

Leaving Nepigon on 25th June, I arrived at Winnipeg the following afternoon. The next day was spent with Mr. H. McKellar, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and I was pleased to be able to accept an invitation to accompany that gentleman the next day down the Northern Pacific Railway as far as Wawanesa, where I had an opportunity of being present and delivering an address at a Farmers' Institute meeting. The subject of burning interest at the time was noxious weeds. Mr. McKellar, who is a clear and forcible speaker, laid before the meeting what was the exact state of the provincial laws bearing upon this subject, the duties of weed inspectors and path masters, and also what was being done by the Manitoba Government to prevent the spread of the Russian Thistle and other weeds. On invitation of the chairman, I delivered an address on the different classes of weeds, their injuries and the best means of fighting them. The usefulness of this address was much increased by my being able to show specimens of many kind of weeds treated of, a large number of these having been brought in by farmers anxious to know their names and characters. Too much cannot be said of the energetic policy now being carried out by the provincial Department of Agriculture of Manitoba with regard to the subject of noxious weeds; it is probably to-day of more importance than any other agricultural question which the Manitoba farmer has to consider. This was evidenced by the close attention paid to Mr. McKellar's address at Wawanesa. On the return journey, we had the good fortune of travelling with Mr. J. F. Riley, the roadmaster of the Northern Pacific Railway, who has taken a keen and practical interest in this matter, as is shown by the remarkably clean condition of the track. If the farmers of Manitoba would do the work of fighting weeds only half as well as this railway, it would be a great advantage to the province. Mr. Vanderslice, the division superintendent, is also displaying much interest in this subject. He gave us every facility possible in making our investigation and asked us to let him know of anything further that could be done.

Before leaving Wawanesa, we had an opportunity of seeing some of the grand farming country in the neighbourhood of that town. Early on the morning of the 29th of June we were met by Mr. R. Parks, the weed inspector of that district, with a team of fast horses and driven for three hours to various localities where weeds had been observed. In this drive of about 17 miles we were able to see that the farms in this district were exceptionally clean of weeds, a fact which was an evidence not only of the wisdom of the farmers, but also of Mr. Parks's energy. One spot of particular interest was the exact locality on the Northern Pacific Railway where the so-called "Russian Thistle" had been detected last year. Several young seedlings were found on the railway bank, but the patch was being carefully watched by the railway authorities. It had already once been hoed over, and this operation was to be repeated every week as long as any plants appeared.

One of the most important results of this journey was the detection in alarming abundance of the Tumbling Mustard (*Sisymbrium Dinapistrum*) in Manitoba, in the district lying between Morris and Myrtle. Immediately on our return, a bulletin on the subject was prepared and issued by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba.

Monday, the 1st of July, was spent collecting specimens and examining farms in the direction of Silver Heights. Many weeds were observed, those aggressively abundant being without exception introduced species, chiefly belonging to the Cress family, and from Europe. The following day I left for Brandon. July 3rd was spent at the Experimental Farm, examining the crops and collecting.

Finding that it was necessary for me to return to Brandon to attend a joint meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute, and Provincial Teachers' Association, to be held at that place on the 9th, 10th and 11th of July, I proceeded to Indian Head on the 3rd. The 4th, 5th and 6th were spent with Mr. Mackay in examining the

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