

THE RUSSIAN THISTLE  
OR  
RUSSIAN TUMBLE-WEED.

(*Salsola Kali*, L., var. *Tragus*, D.C.)

Undoubted specimens of this terrible pest of the Dakotas and some of the other North-western United States, having been sent to me from Manitoba, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture deems it advisable that a short circular giving a figure of this plant should at once be distributed amongst farmers in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, so that, as far as possible, they may be made aware of its appearance and nature. He also instructs me to impress upon all the enormous injuries which will surely follow unless every effort is now put forth to eradicate this pest before it becomes firmly established. The United States Government, as well as those of several of the Northern States, have issued some excellent illustrated articles on this subject, and large sums of money, amounting now to nearly \$2,000,000, have been appropriated to secure the eradication of this weed, which is known to have been the cause of so much loss to farmers in Russia and in the United States. The United States Government has issued a bulletin by Mr. L. H. Dewey, Assistant Botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture, illustrated by figures of the plant in its different stages and of the seed enlarged. The Farmer's Advocate, of London, Ont., has wisely published a warning article to Canadian farmers, giving quotations from the above, and reproductions of the figures. The publishers have kindly lent me the figures used in that article for this circular.

These will serve to draw attention to the plant and show those who have not seen the above articles, what its appearance is. It is not a true thistle, but is a variety of the European Salt-wort, and is related to the lamb's quarters and spinach. It takes its name "thistle" from the fact that, as the seeds ripen, the stems develop at each joint three sharp spines instead of leaves. The spines are described as harder than, and as sharp as, those of the Canada