

By Mr. McGregor :

Q. Do you not think that Mustard might be dealt with in the same way ?

A. Mustard can be prevented from forming new seeds by seeding down, but it will appear again when the grass is broken up. I am working a garden now, which I have worked for 10 years. I am certain that never a spear of the plant went to seed, but I have mustard every spring and it keeps me going.

*The Paint Brush.*—Referring to what Mr. McMillan, said of salt, there is in the Eastern Townships an extremely aggressive weed which is one of the hawk weeds, and is known as the Paint Brush, or the Devil's Paint-brush, as Mr. Parmelee will know. It has been studied at the Vermont Experiment Station and they found that the most practical treatment was using one and one-half tons of salt broadcast, to the acre. They found this did not affect the grass injuriously, but rather improved it, but it destroyed the weed. The trouble in the Eastern Townships and in the mountains of Vermont, is, that on many upland mountain pastures it is impossible to break up the land, so that when this weed becomes established it spreads rapidly and crowds out the grass. Top-dressing with salt is the only satisfactory treatment yet discovered to get rid of the weed. Some small experiments have been tried in Canada, but too much salt was used. However, after some years of experimenting, Professor Jones, of the Vermont Experiment Station, finds that one and one-half tons of salt to the acre is about the right quantity. I think this is an important discovery, because it makes it possible for the farmers of the Eastern Townships and Vermont to save their pastures; for, though the remedy is rather expensive, it well repays its use. Some of our farmers have tried it, and have obtained equally good results.

*The Cow Cockle.*—I will now draw your attention to a newly introduced weed of which I have here a specimen. It is the Cow Cockle, which belongs to the Pink family, and is a pretty plant, which is sometimes grown in gardens, it was introduced into Manitoba by the Mennonites. Many of these people were poor and they bought cheap seeds, with which they introduced those of many troublesome plants, among them the Cow Cockle. This plant grows to two feet high and its seeds are one-twelfth inch in diameter, black and perfectly round. It is troublesome in grain fields. It has spread in Manitoba, and in South Manitoba now covers large areas, crowding out wheat. It forms a large succulent plant, two feet high and two feet across. In going through the Mennonite settlements, last year, I was pleased to see the industrious way the farmers were fighting against the weeds which they had undoubtedly introduced by purchasing poor seed from Russia and elsewhere. They are doing their best to eradicate the weeds. All speak German and consequently did not learn so soon as some of the English speaking settlers the danger of neglecting these enemies; but when the Manitoba government sent out a man to tell them what to do, they set to work with German pertinacity to stamp out the pest. In driving through the country, one may often see whole families pulling weeds systematically, walking abreast all through the crop until the whole field has been covered. They don't do as our farmers here often do with mustard—pull it up and throw it down on the ground, where it smothers the crop and ripens its seed. But the father of the family carries a large flax sack over his shoulders, and all the others walk over to him when their hands are full and empty them into the bag. When the sack is full it is carried to the side of the field, where the weeds are piled up and burnt. As you are probably aware, the method of life among these people is to live in villages, driving out to their farms in the morning, and taking their dinners with them. They leave their wagons at the side of the field, have dinner around them in the middle of the day, and go back to their villages at night. Every night they carry back in their waggon a load of weeds, and in front of every house in the Mennonite villages there is a big charred spot where they burn their weeds. This shows what these people are doing, and it cannot but have a remarkable result on the condition of that country in the future. When I met the farmers in Manitoba three years ago and told them I was studying weeds, they said to me, You want to go down to the Mennonite country; it is there you will see the weeds. All I can say is, that the Mennonites can set an example in methodical work to some of