



Dr. James Fletcher, F.R.S.C., LL.D.

One of Canada's most public spirited and active citizens is Dr. James Fletcher, Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, Ottawa. From one end of the country to the other his work is most favorably known and more especially that portion of it, which has to do with the eradication of injurious weeds and the extermination of insect pests. His services in these particulars are most valuable and if farmers would only give more heed to Dr. Fletcher's advice and teaching the injurious effects of weeds and insect pests would be greatly lessened. It is estimated that the ravages of twelve insects alone cost the United States an average annually of \$385,000,000. If we put the annual cost to Canada of all insect pests at one-tenth of this amount, we have the enormous sum of \$13,800,000 which our farmers are losing every year by not putting into practice the advice of Dr. Fletcher and others associated with him in the war against insect and other pests. However, it must not be inferred from this that Dr. Fletcher's influence is with-

out effect. Slowly but surely our people are being wakened up to the need of more strenuous and determined effort in order to combat the pernicious effects of all injurious weed and insect pests, and the next few years will witness marked progress in this direction.

Dr. Fletcher will be best known to the younger readers of THE FARMING WORLD through his connection with our recent weed contest. When he kindly consented to make the awards we felt that the interests of every competitor would be well looked after, and in this there has been no disappointment. Only words of approval have come from those who lost, each one expressing a determination to do better next time. Both winners and losers alike will appreciate the kindly and genial face of Dr. Fletcher, a photograph of which we are privileged to present in this issue. His fondness for young people and his desire to help them adds greatly to Dr. Fletcher's usefulness as a public servant.

Dr. Fletcher was born in England, but

has lived in Canada for so many years that his attachments to his adopted country have become thoroughly established. No Canadian has greater faith in Canada or in her natural resources, which he is doing so much to develop, than has Dr. Fletcher. For some years after coming to Canada he was attached to the Parliamentary Library at Ottawa. At the same time he continued his studies of insects, and soon became one of the most active workers of the Ontario Entomological Society. In 1886, when the Dominion Experimental Farm system was established, Dr. Fletcher was selected as Dominion Entomologist and Botanist, a position he has ably and worthily filled.

While Dr. Fletcher is a first-class investigator, one of his strongest qualities is his ability to interest an audience and to arouse its enthusiasm in the subject upon which he is speaking. His geniality beams out in his talk and he soon gets the confidence and sympathy of his audience. His instruction is clear, inspiring and wholesome and is not prolonged to the wearying of his hearers.

Dr. Fletcher has not courted public favor excepting in so far as it would aid in making his work more effective. It, therefore, gives us the greater pleasure to tell of his good deeds and useful work and to present the splendid portrait of himself which appears on this page.

#### Weeds, and How to Destroy Them

The following are the essays submitted by the winners in THE FARMING WORLD Weed Competition. It does not follow because they were written by the successful ones that these are the best sent in. There were several essays out of the number submitted of equal merit with these which follow. But as only 25 points out of 100 were allowed for a perfect essay the winning of the prize depended very largely upon the collection, and rightly so, as upon that the skill and knowledge of the collector could best be brought out. These prize essays describe weed conditions in widely separated districts, from York County in Ontario to Carleton County in New Brunswick.

#### FIRST PRIZE - MISS ADA GARDHOUSE, York County, Ontario.

A weed has been defined as any plant out of place; for instance, a wheat plant in a corn field would be a weed in that sense.

The principal objections to these intruders are as follows: They shade, crowd and choke useful plants; increase the labor and expense of cleaning seed; interfere with a regular rotation of crops; use plant food and absorb soil moisture; harbor many of the rusts which attack grain crops; interfere with the use of mowers, binders, and other implements in taking off crops; and, lastly, but not least, they are very offensive to the eye of good farmers and people of good taste. Hence it can be plainly seen that, they are very injurious, also a source of great annoyance.

Weeds are introduced and spread in many ways, namely: By wind, water, birds, animals, railways, in seed grain,



Miss Ada Gardhouse, Winner of 1st Prize.



Master Wm. Britain [Aged 13],  
Winner of 4th Prize.

Miss Lizzie Taylor, Winner of 2nd Prize.