

cannot grow to the degree of luxuriance that would be possible of it if abundance of moisture was available. Most soils on which corn and hoed crops are grown are in good condition as far as plant food is concerned, often being given a coat of barnyard manure previous to the planting of this crop, so that the success of the crop depends largely on weather conditions and soil moisture.

Dry, warm weather is the kind that corn flourishes in, provided there is enough moisture in the ground to keep the plant growing. Roots require much moisture, even more than does corn. This season gives indication of supplying sufficient heat for the best growth of the crop, and also, unless rains come soon, promises to be a comparatively dry one. In view of this latter fact, too much cultivation cannot be given in order to keep a perpetual mulch on the ground, and thus hold all the moisture possible in the soil for the use of growing crops. Keep the cultivator going, and the increased yield will more than pay for the extra labor involved.

Mow the Fence Corner Herbage.

Canadian farmers are each year menaced by the introduction on their premises of new weeds, or at least weeds new to their locality, or to their particular farm. Weeds are spreading fast, and some means must be resorted to in order that our country be not overrun with these pests. Weeds spread in different ways, and their seeds are often fitted with appendages and appliances to aid the other natural elements in their dissemination. Running rootstocks are also a means of spreading weeds.

The great amount of land taken up by fences in most districts is a matter of comment. Many of these fences are unsightly, and at the same time expensive, while the uncared-for land rendered unproductive by them serves as a flower garden for hosts of noxious weeds. The law compels the cutting of weeds on roadsides, and this is done, while just over the fence they are seeding abundantly, and the seeds are being washed and blown over the cultivated lands, where they germinate and grow to maturity in the various grain and meadow crops, and occasionally even in the hoed crops.

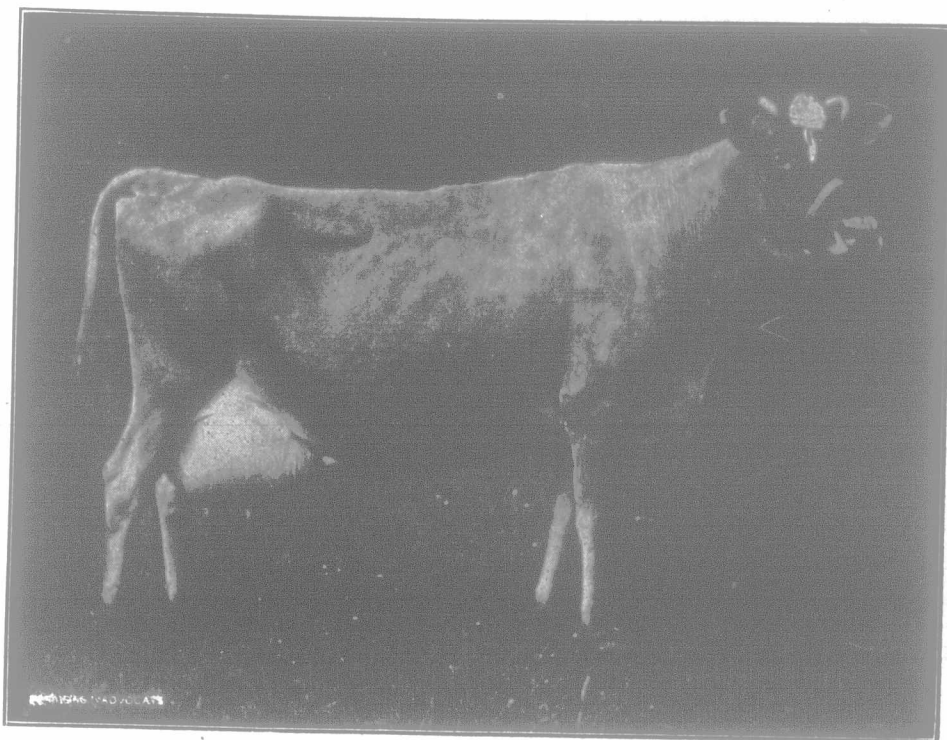
It is quite a common thing to see a man summer-fallowing a strip of land, and in many cases cultivating a hoed crop, for the express purpose of eradicating sow thistle, twitch grass, bladder campion, hawkweed, Canada thistle, or some other noxious weed, while growing luxuriantly and undisturbed in the fence-corners, and waving their seed-laden racemes, heads or panicles, as the case may be, in the breezes which serve to distribute their fruit over the very field which is under special cultivation for their extirpation, are these same pests. The running rootstocks, as soon as the cultivation ceases, push out from their tough sod-bed along the fence and spread in the looser, more recently cultivated soil, to be dragged from place to place during future cultivations, and establish the roots of the pest in various parts of the field, from which, if not carefully cultivated, it may spread throughout the entire field.

Fences are in many cases a wilful waste of valuable land, but it is not the waste nor the large amount of capital which is tied up in these obstructions that is their worst feature. If the land on which they stand was merely rendered unproductive, little harm would be done, but this land is a fertile strip of soil which produces foul seeds enough to seed down the countryside, and thus become a menace to the production of the land under cultivation.

The fences are here, and are here to stay, for a time, at least, and so are the weeds and other useless growth that flourishes along their borders. Many farmers are from year to year doing away with these superfluous dividing lines between different portions of their farms, and it is to be hoped that this good example will be followed by all our land-owners who wish to have attractive, clean farms. But the unnecessary fences cannot be removed in a day, nor yet in a year. It will take time, and the question arises how best can the weeds that are already established along the fences be combated, and how can their spread be prevented? Time was when labor was more plentiful, and the farmer took the time to have a man go around his fences and cut all foul growth each season. This is very commendable. By topping the weeds just before the production of seed, many species can be successfully kept from spreading. This is very effective with some perennials, like the Canada thistle, and is always a sure method of preventing seeding of the undesirable weeds and shrubbery so prevalent along the fences. Many farmers still cling to the practice of mowing the grass and everything growing therewith in the fence-corners along their meadow fields at the time of the cutting of the hay. This fence-corner hay, as it is called, is not usually of

much value, being suitable for cattle feed only, but this practice serves a very important purpose, that of cutting all the noxious weeds along with the grass. Where a short rotation of crops is followed, and the field is frequently in hay, the fence-corner weeds are kept in check to some extent, at least, by this method. It would be much better to have them cut each year, but a half loaf is better than none, and much good can be accomplished even by this.

It is surprising what a conglomeration of species can be found growing along the fences. Nearly all orders of plants are represented, and everything, from the commonest of inoffensive



Viola.

Jersey cow. First at Bath and West Show, 1911.

Exhibited by Mrs. Ward.

roadside plant, to the most noxious and tenacious of weed common in cultivated fields, may be found flourishing and luxuriant along the fence, where, unnoticed and unobstructed, it sends forth its fruiting stem or its running rootstock to reproduce and spread its species not only along the fence, but to all parts of the fertile fields. Watch your fence-corners, and when a new or unknown species appears, get it identified, and, if undesirable, destroy it. Keep the grass and the accompanying herbage cut once a year, if possible, and, if not able to do it this often, do it as frequently as possible. Many weeds, like the burdock, can also be killed by spudding or cutting with a spade below the crown. This can be profitably attended to immediately following a rain, when there is little to be gained by working the land. Where the prevalent weeds have running rootstocks, careful cultivation in the proximity of the fences is required, and care must be taken not to drag the roots out into the field, as they are very likely to take root, grow, and give further trouble.

Do away with all useless fences as quickly as possible, but until this can be accomplished, do



Precocious Jersey Heifer.

not rest on your oars, but cut all the fence-corner growth to prevent the weeds going to seed. The time to cut them is just before flowering. It is better not to leave it too late, or some may mature seed even after being cut. The work is most thoroughly done when all growth is cut, because, where the weeds only are cut, there is danger of missing some in the grass. Use the days that are unsuitable for haymaking and harvesting in cleaning up the fence rows of their foul weeds, and the war on these in the open fields can be waged with much more certainty of success, and with much less danger of the newly-cleaned field becoming reseeded with the lately eradicated or new specimens.

THE DAIRY

Care of Factory Milk.

At this season of the year, particularly, factory patrons should remember that milk may become tainted from (a) absorbing bad odours, (b) the dust and dirt that may get into the milk during and after milking, (c) rusty and unclean utensils, (d) the cows eating unsuitable feed, (e) the cows drinking impure water. A bulletin from the office of Dairy Commissioner Ruddick again points out that milk should be cooled as quickly as possible during or after milking. Milk is injured, rather than improved, by aeration. The easiest and most effective method of cooling milk for cheesemaking is to place the milk in a tank of cold water or water and ice, and strain each cow's milk into it as soon as milked. But the covers on the cans as soon as possible after milking is finished. This will prevent tough or leathery cream, and keep the dust and dirt from blowing into the milk. In warm weather, the evening's milk should be cooled to 60 or 65 degrees, if delivered the following morning. Milk to be kept longer than overnight should be cooled to 50 degrees or under. It is not necessary to cool the morning's milk if delivered in a separate can. Milk that makes gassy curds is usually dirty. Clean milk and clean utensils will never produce gassy curds. Generally speaking, a patron who delivers tainted or gassy milk to a cheese factory causes a more serious loss to his fellow patrons than one who skims or waters his milk.

A Phenomenal Heifer.

Nature sometimes does peculiar things. The Jersey heifer shown here is Pretty Kate, No. 10091, Canadian Jersey Cattle Club Records. She is just fifteen months old, and is not due to calve until next October, but she is now giving ten and a half pounds of milk a day. She has been milked since May 24th, when it was found necessary to do so because of the condition of her udder. This heifer was milked once a day at first, but now twice a day, and two and a half pounds of butter has been made from her milk in one week. She weighs six hundred and twenty pounds. It was feared at first that milking her so long before calving might injure her, but, in addition to good pasture, she is now fed about a quart of chop at every milking, and her condition shows no sign of failing. She is the property of Mrs. E. Lawrence, of Middlesex County, Ont.

GARDEN & ORCHARD.

The Once Despised Potato.

The potato was not always the popular and useful vegetable that it is to-day among civilized peoples. For instance, Turgot, the most eminent of all French statesmen, in so far as efforts to improve the agricultural and economic conditions of the country were concerned, introduced the potato, among other new food plants and grasses. Curious opposition developed. It was claimed that potatoes should not be eaten, because they caused leprosy, and because no mention was made of them in Scripture. The latter consideration has not been urged against the tomato, but only the other day the attention of one of the editors of "The Farmer's Advocate" was called to the prejudice that still exists in the minds of some against eating tomatoes, because they are thought to be the cause of cancer. It was only by a world of pains that Turgot was able to induce the upper French classes to adopt the potato as a part of their diet, thus wearing away the prejudices of the masses of the people. In order to accomplish this, he had to induce no less a personage than the King himself to issue a special order that the new vegetable should be served on his table.