

of their nature. But the ability to produce great numbers of seeds and to scatter this seed is also characteristic and desirable in our various grains; for this reason we must conclude that plants, to become weeds, must possess other objectionable inherent qualities. Among the other objectionable features of weeds may be considered their prevalence and their resistance to measures of eradication, while not less important is their ability to adapt themselves to a great variety of soils and climatic conditions. Besides these, both plants and their seeds possess, as a rule, great vitality, and to this is largely due their prevalence on lands which may have been carefully cultivated for quite long periods of time. Knowing now a few of these characteristics which mark various plants as weeds, we are able, more intelligently, to devise means for their extermination.

The old questions, why, where and how, must now be asked. Why should we endeavor to free our farms of weeds? Where and how do weeds occasion the great loss previously mentioned; and lastly, how are we to prevent their introduction and accomplish their eradication?

The answer to the first problem may be plainly read between the lines of the explanation of the second, where and how weeds reduce the value of our farm produce. Weeds take from the soil large quantities of plant food which should be made entirely available to the growing crop, yet even this is but a small consideration, compared with the value to the crop, of the moisture weeds absorb. Nor less important is the fact that weeds by crowding useful plants deprive them of air, sunlight and growing space. Remember that "where weeds will grow crops will too," but think of this not as a reason for allowing their presence, but as a most excellent reason for their destruction. Weeds increase the cost of handling the crop, in hauling and binding, and in the end obtain for it only the usual low price received for inferior goods. Even animals are greatly inconvenienced by the presence of burs and other sticky seeds in their coats, while the value of wool may be greatly reduced in this way. Lastly weeds are an eyesore and a constant source of worry and vexation to the farmer.

Weeds are migratory, and the direction of their migration has been steadily westward. Nearly all our noxious weeds have come from Europe, while those of our great northwest have