

seeds were first carried to these countries from Europe, attached to the coats of the sheep and cattle which the Spanish colonists brought with them from their native land, where the plant is indigenous.

On this northern continent, according to Dr. Gray, the *Xanthium spinosum* grows in waste places on the sea board and along rivers southward, and he quotes it doubtfully as naturalized from Tropical America. Whilst it is possible that the plant may have thus reached the United States, there is yet another way by which the seeds are constantly being introduced into that country, viz., in the wool which is very extensively imported thither from South America, and more particularly from Buenos Ayres. Rarely could a fleece of wool from this latter place be met with, without some of the *Xanthium* burrs sticking to it, and in the preparation of this wool for use, every woollen mill becomes a centre for the dispersion of the seeds. Probably, by this means, the sporadic appearance of this plant in Canada may be explained, as a woollen mill formerly stood at Dundas, near the place in which the plants are now found.

Although the climate of Western Canada may prove sufficiently rigorous to prevent the growth of this noxious weed, save in sheltered localities, yet it would be a wise step to endeavour to eradicate it whilst it is yet confined to a limited district, and before it becomes thoroughly acclimatized.

