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EDITORIAL.

Noxious weeds are no respecters of persons.

Funny, isn't it, how, in a dry time, the showers always seem heavier somewhere else?

Are your buildings well rodded, with good ground connection in permanently moist earth?

A good way for a neighborhood to test the value of co-operation is to make common cause against noxious weeds.

One of the best political safeguards of the country is a well-informed public opinion, alert and ready to criticise the "powers that be."

Prof. Thos. Shaw estimates that the farmers of North Dakota, a typical prairie country, lose yearly from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 because of weeds in their grain fields.

Belgium has opened the country to the city by the sale of cheap workmen's tickets on State-owned railway lines, which carry the people 24 miles for two cents, so that they can live on farms and in the far outlying villages.

A satisfactory measure of commendation of the principle of officially supervised yearly tests of pure-bred dairy cows, as provided for in the Canadian Record of Performance, is found in Malcolm H. Gardner's statement that "The cow having a large short-time official test, and then proving that she is capable of holding the gait to the end of her lactation period, is likely to be the most desirable cow, and her sons the most sought for in the heading of herds."

In most parts of Ontario an acre of corn will produce as silage more feed than four acres of ordinary pasture, and more than eight or ten acres would produce at the rate of growth usual during August. Enlarge your farm by growing alfalfa, mixed grain crops for green feed, and corn. Feed these in the stable to cows having the run of a pasture during most hours of the day and night, thereby conserving the energy of both man and beast. The day pasture should, if possible, be a shady one.

For every crop under the sun there seems to be an enemy—something to battle with that which has been sown. It is a mistake, however, to assume that profits of farming would be just so much the greater but for the inroads made upon crops by insects, blights, frosts, hail storms, drouths, and all the rest. Without these vicissitudes, production would be larger, and prices lower. If profits did increase by reason of more ample net returns, increased competition, through the attraction of more men to the land, would eventually pare them down. Even from the purely business point of view, agriculture in general does not suffer through disaster to the extent one would casually suppose, however it may be with the individual who sustains heavy reverses in one particular season. In this regard, the general, which is an average, differs materially from the particular, which may be an exception.

Farmers in Western Ontario never need worry about late harvests. Premature harvests mean diminished yields.

A crucial test in dairy management is the degree to which one succeeds in maintaining the milk flow during August. Soiling crops help.

This is the season when results of spraying become manifest. How many more apples might have been kept clean by a little more thoroughness! It is a time for resolutions.

The summer silo is an inestimable boon. It is a question whether summer feeding of silage is not even more profitable than winter-feeding, ton for ton. Dairymen whose corn crop justifies, would do well to consider the advisability of putting up a second silo. Make it narrow and deep, with not less than four feet below the ground. For summer feeding, silage is thought to keep rather fresher below the ground level.

If through any lack of enthusiastic and steadfast support of the Hydro-Electric scheme, the people of Ontario should eventually play into the hands of Sir William McKenzie's alleged electric merger, they would richly deserve to be fleeced by one of the most ruthless corporations known to the Canadian business world. Stand to a man for Hydro. The Hydro enterprise is your own. Back it, and turn a deaf ear to the corporation which tries to bait municipalities with a snap.

Poor seed corn has poorly withstood the adversities of 1912. We meant to ear-test all our seed corn this year, but rush of other work made it physically impossible to finish the job. Some nine acres of Longfellow were planted in hills with ear-tested corn, and this area shows a good stand and vigorous growth, considering the season. Four rows of White-cap, planted with ear-tested corn, from which all poor ears had been rejected before shelling, show an excellent stand; while untested corn of the same variety, alongside, has made a weaker and much more uneven growth, with many hills replanted.

The Canadian Commercial Agent in St. John's, Newfoundland, says local produce dealers have not been satisfied with the apple trade there the last few years. They seem to think that the Dominion Standard Law defining quality applies only to apples exported to England, and that, as a consequence, only an apple of inferior quality is exported to Newfoundland market. Is the charge true? If so, is the policy sound? Is that the way the California orange-growers have developed their magnificent trade in all corners of the continent? The policy of developing new markets with inferior produce is not brilliantly far-sighted.

When they read that power supplied by the Electrical Development Company to the Toronto Street Railway and the Toronto Electric Light Company has been off five times during ten days, depriving the Queen City inhabitants of electric light and car service for a total of ten hours and twenty-five minutes at times when it was particularly needed, the people of Ontario must feel deeply grateful for the greatly superior service so far rendered by the publicly-owned and publicly-operated Hydro-Electric enterprise. Success to the Hydro, and bouquets to the Hydro-Electric Commission and its efficient engineers.

A Travelling Market Commissioner.

As intimated in our news department last week, the Ontario Government has devoted \$3,000 of the Dominion grant for the promotion of agriculture in the Province, to keep a representative in the Prairie Provinces this summer and fall looking after the interests of the Ontario fruit trade in the West.

In this enterprising and commendable move, the Ontario Government is following the lead of British Columbia, which for two years has had a man in the West reporting upon the condition of fruit arriving from British Columbia and from competing States and Provinces; also, upon price, packages, express rates and other matters that might be of advantage to British Columbia fruit-growers in competition for prairie markets.

The new appointee, James Parnell, will be known as the travelling market commissioner for Ontario, with headquarters in Winnipeg. He will travel around to various points, chiefly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. He will report regularly to P. W. Hodgetts, Director, Fruit Branch, Toronto, who will distribute the information that is transmitted in the form of weekly and semi-weekly communications to growers, both by letter and through the press. Large growers, and the co-operative fruit-shipping associations will be advised in this way, by letter. In fact, any fruit-grower who wishes may have his name on the mailing list for these weekly and semi-weekly advices.

A New Ireland.

Two causes have been at work in recent years to regenerate Ireland as a farming country, naturally one of the most promising in the world. One of these has been the restoration of the land to the people under a system of purchase, enabling tenants to buy farms with money borrowed on Government credit. The instalment payments of these loans are spread over 50 or 60 years, on such terms that the annual amount required to cover both interest and sinking fund is less than rents formerly paid. Hunter Sharp, the United States Consul at Belfast, reports that the Government has already so advanced more than \$486,650,000, and in course of another thirty years a large proportion of Irish farmers will own their farms free from any charge. To retard the exodus from the country districts into the large towns, laborers' cottages are erected, with half an acre of land attached, let at 24 cts. to 36 cts. a week, the difference between the rent charged and the annual cost being borne by the general taxpayers. The two obvious lessons for Canada in this connection are never to alienate the land in larger blocks from the people, and to improve the conditions whereby more people can live upon it.

The other great cause of agricultural improvement in Ireland has been the governmental department of agriculture, which has been disseminating information, establishing schools for the instruction of farmers, and training women in dairying. Then there is the Irish Agricultural Organization Society, which has for its object teaching the farmer that whatever legislation may do for him, his own energy and industry remain the chief factors in the achievement of rural happiness and prosperity, and instructing him in the accomplishment of this end through the organization of societies for the purchase of his require-