

time allows during the winter. Such grain will also have the advantage to be free from weed seeds which, too often, are found in large proportion in seed bought from the dealers.

If the Macdonald competition can prove to our farmers the necessity of giving great care to the choice of seed, and the advantages of relying only upon themselves for such, a great progress will have been accomplished in our agricultural methods, and the yield of our crops will soon be more remunerative.

C. M.

WEEDS vs. CLOVER.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

DEAR SIR,—Since I sent you my last notes on the state of the crops, there have been two very severe wind-storms and lots of rain. The first wind-storm could be called a gale without any stretch of the imagination and was at its height on Saturday the 30th June. It was very destructive, and was thought by some to be accompanied with frost, as after it was over the leaves of tender plants such as beans, tomatoes, etc., were blackened, and the leaves on the apple trees scorched and browned as if exposed to a hot blast from a fire.

Around Chateauguay quite a large number of apple-trees were blown down, many others split, large branches broken off like a clay pipe stem and about one-third of the apples that were on the trees were blown down to the ground. Another very severe storm happened later and I noticed by the papers that around where you are, at Ste-Anne de Bellevue, and Pointe-Claire, did quite a considerable damage, more in fact than on the south side of the St. Lawrence. Nevertheless more of the apples were taken so that now I hardly think there will be much over half a crop, if that.

Very rank grain was also blown down with rather a poor prospect of it being able to rise again. Great and all as the storm was it did not do very much harm to the weeds, a few of which I intend to write about in this article. They are a very large family, so I will only attack a few of the worst; they are white daisy, wild mustard, couch-grass (*chiendent*, French), and sweet clover. I shall treat of the last one first. It was, I believe, brought to this country by immigrants as a

flower (I cannot vouch for this fact), how persistently it grows whenever it gets root, and the seed is carried by birds and by the spring freshets to many sections yearly. There are two kinds of it, one with a white blossom, the other a pale orange colour. Of the two, I think the white grows the more vigorously; it wants to be cut at least twice to prevent seeding and in some sections three times. How to eradicate the roots unless by digging I cannot give an easy method; perhaps by summer-fallowing, if the roots were carefully gathered and burnt, would be the best (How about stubble-working after harvest? Ed.).

The French sections seem to be the home of the *chiendent*, scutch grass or quack grass (or in England, couch-grass), as it is called by some, but to my mind there is nothing quack about it, but a genuine pest. The only way to overcome it is by summer fallowing and gathering the roots and cremating them, if not the moisture will start them to grow again. Hoed-crops help to exterminate it if a dry season; but if the season is damp, your work will be nearly useless. The habitans pay no attention to the wild mustard, they say when we have mastered the *chien-dent* we have overcome the mustard too. By a little care the pulling of the mustard plants can be attended to if not neglected too long. I can assure you Mr. Editor, if all the beautiful yellow of the wild mustard and butter-cup was gold in America we should not hear much about 16 to 1 platform that is occupying the minds of our neighbours across the border.

I come now to the white daisy, last but not least, and I can assure you Mr. Editor that the farmers of the province of Quebec haven't got a monopoly of this pest. Some sections of Nova-Scotia can compete very favorably for first place. In some sections where the land has been a long time in hay or pasture the daisy flourishes superbly. The only remedy is to cultivate often, and if there is not manure to spare, plough down clover. If the farmers would only grow clover, in place of these noxious weeds, there would be no more talk of hard times. I do not know whether you ever heard the story of the tanner (not more than 67 years ago. Ed.). A city was bombarded by the enemy, when a meeting was called by the mayor to see how best to defend the city. One suggested a method of fortifications, another one something else, when the tanner was asked his opinion, he said very pompously: Gen-