

Cleaned on the Better Farming Special

T. G. Raynor, B. S. A., Seed Division, Ottawa.
Weeds proved a very interesting topic to many of the farmers who visited the Better Farming Special.

One weed, in particular, is worthy of more than passing notice because of the wide distribution it is getting in comparatively recent years. Bladder Campion is becoming well known from Toronto to Apple Hill in Eastern Ontario as one of the worst weeds to eradicate. I believe there will be a general campaign on individual plants with spades and salt as a result of the advice given to always put a handful of salt on the freshly cut root to make a job of its destruction. Many were the testimonies as to the efficacy of this method. One farmer was very sure that if you cut it at the stage when the seeds were forming and below the crown, it would kill every plant so dealt with. I must confess to being skeptical on this point and still press home the salt application to be sure. To add to the many names already given to this plant such as Bladder Campion, Cow Bell, Rattle Weed, White Cockle, Bladder Weed, a very beautiful one was learned at Kemptonville, Ont., where it is known as Silver Bell.

Some farmers alleged that if you got it cut well down in the fleshy root stalk it wouldn't grow again. No one has put any string or wire on a plant to see if this were true. Until this is done salt them down.

NEW METHOD WITH MUSTARD

A reputable farmer living near Chesterville who wild mustard flourishes in great profusion, says that he has got the start of wild mustard during the last four years in his oat crop, by clipping the fields about the time the mustard begins to blossom. It should be noted that his farm lies in creek bottom where the soil is pretty rich and consequently the oats have come on again very rapidly and given him plenty of straw. He hasn't found that it lessens his crops any, and he has harvested 80 bushels an acre. A six or seven cut mower does the trick quicker and cheaper he claims than to spray it with copper sulphate. I would be afraid to try such a method on high land or those of a lighter soil character.

PRESERVING SOIL MOISTURE

After explaining one of the demonstrations in connection with farm drainage a young farmer from Eastern Ontario, when it was shown that if a man during the hot weeks in July was cultivating his corn field, he was making a dust blanket that would hold the moisture and help his corn, exclaimed, "Why I haven't been cultivating my corn for I thought that would make it all the drier by letting off the moisture."

PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE AND QUACK GRASS

After Bladder Campion more questions were asked on how to get rid of the Perennial Sow Thistle and Quack Grass than about any other weeds. They seem to be taking the most toll in farm crops of any of the bad ones all over the country.

Hope was always held out that both could be dealt with quite successfully if it were gone about in the right way. The question was often raised "What are you going to do about the seed of the Sow Thistle that comes from the careless farmer?" That is the crux of the whole matter now. We need some law to keep the Sow Thistle from going to seed.

One farmer living near Chesterville said his neighbor had a very bad piece of Sow Thistle. He seeded it down and after taking off the hay crop he plowed it shallow. He cultivated it often enough to keep down growth appearing above the surface and in the fall plowed it deep. Next summer he planted it with corn and now he says it is clean of Sow Thistle.

The plan outlined by Professor Howitt, of the O. A. C., Guelph, was generally recommended for both Sow Thistle and Quack, viz., to summer fallow until about the middle of July. During the summer fallow process enrich with stable manure at the rate of 20 tons (12 or 13 loads) an acre. Sow rape in drills 26 or 30 inches apart in rows at the rate of one and one-half lbs of seed an acre, cultivate on into August, when the trick will be accomplished quite effectually. Other methods of smothering with cultivation and crops such as buckwheat and millet were also recommended.



Products of General Farming and Much Industry
A system of cropping that continually reduces soil fertility may, for a short time, bring larger results than does general farming that tends to increase rather than diminish the fertility of the soil. Permanent returns, however, must be built on a permanent system of agriculture and farm buildings such as these here illustrated on the farm of Sherwood Colston, Halton Co., Ont., are most generally found where stock is largely kept.

—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

It was repeatedly pointed out that a small flock of sheep were most helpful agents in general weed destruction on the ordinary farm. All admitted this, but they wanted to know what about the roadside curbs.

"Put a tax of \$50 apiece on them," said one Scotch farmer who recently had his sheep worried by dogs in Glangerry County. "That would soon thin them out." A higher tax on dogs is an absolute necessity. More sheep are needed throughout the country.

THICK AND THIN SEEDING

"I was always on advocate of thick seeding," said one man at Tweed, "until I had an experience one year in letting the hired man sow a field with unusually large well graded oats. He only got on a little over half the seed intended and heavy rains right away after seeding prevented reseedling. The plants came up scarcely close enough to be neighborly. People asked me what I had planted in that field anyway as it was lying along the road. I was so ashamed of it that I turned them off with some evasive answer. However, it proved a good season for growth. The oats stood out, grew very rank and strong, and I harvested by actual tally 80 bushels of oats an acre. Since that I believe in a good fanning mill selection and not too thick seeding."

Land taxation made me mad when I first heard it discussed. The more I think of it, however, the more sensible it looks. What right has the community to tax things that I have produced by my own labor. All I have that belongs to the community is the community value of my land. That I do not object to paying for. This is the view of a plain farmer.—A. McLeod, Halton Co., Ont.

A Dissatisfied Westerner
Wm. Gilbert, Alberta

The absence of the dairy cow was one of the first things that I noticed on coming to this country 10 years ago. By a dairy cow I mean one with good veining and udder and giving enough milk to pay good interest on labor and money invested.

I carefully studied up the various breeds common in this country and came to the conclusion that the Holstein is the farmer's cow. The Holstein is of good size, gives a lot of milk and the breed holds all records for butter production. Many, however, have a prejudice against the Holstein and I have had warm arguments without number in defence of my breed.

The worst enemy of the Holstein in this country, however, is the man who goes to Ontario and collects a bunch of pure bred scrub Holsteins and sells them to the farmers of this new country. I verily believe that some of the pure bred Holsteins brought to this country would not be classed so high as canners by an Alberta packing house. Many of them weigh only 800 lbs. when 10 to 15 years old and to make matters worse they are barren. Tricky dealers even go so far as to read the records that the cows have made and the farmer, without verifying those records, buys the animal. He finds himself with a cow that is dry, barren and has not enough meat on its bones to make a meat pie.

AN ABUSED MARKET

There is a market for any quantity of good grade or pure bred dairy cattle in this country. The Westerner does not kick at paying a good price for a good animal. The poor stock shipped in, however, has given people a bad impression of Ontario dairy cattle, as naturally they judge the quality of Ontario cows by the kind we get in the West. Fortunately the grade cows have been of a superior sort.

We breeders here in Alberta, who have a good class of cattle for sale, find that these Eastern shipments have done us tremendous injury. So great is the prejudice against the Holstein that it was hard to persuade a man wanting cattle to even take a look at the shipments arriving the latter part of last winter. And why should he? Some of them could not give enough milk to nurse a calf, which the native cow does quite easily.

There is not a cow to 100 acres of land in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The people are willing to go in for stock if Ontario breeders will supply the demand with good animals. There is a good market assured for years to come,—for good stuff.

I often wonder if those of us who produce milk for the city realize just what a serious responsibility is ours. Human life depends on our care of cows, stable and milk. It is said that bad milk causes more infants to die than any other single cause. If that is so we farmers are partly responsible. Let us clean up even if it costs money to do so. The man who makes an effort to be clean will soon find, as I did, that cleanliness or fitness is largely a habit. If we don't clean up of our own accord city health officials will have to make us do so. And then what a protest will be heard from the dirty dairyman.—"Milkman," York Co., Ont.

Responsibility is the one thing to develop boys into men. A "bossed" boy is very apt to be a "bossed" man.