



#### How Weeds Come In.

Weeds come into new regions largely through the carelessness of the land owner. One of the commonest ways of bringing them in is to import them in screenings from flour mills or from other mills that clean grains and sell the screenings. Probably none of our states have a law like that in the Northwest Territories of Canada, which prohibits the sale of screenings except to feeders of sheep, and then under certain restrictions. Screenings contain almost all kinds of weed seeds, and from these they get into the manure pile and are carried onto the land and are placed in the soil in the very best shape for growing. Frequently the farmer produces the weeds on one part of his farm, has them screened out when the wheat is thrashed and shovels the refuse into the manure pile or into some place from which it reaches the manure pile, and is thence sent to all parts of the farm. There is yet another way by which a little clump of weeds in the hay field may get to all parts of the farm. The said weeds are cut with the hay and fed at a time the weed seeds are enough mature to resist the digestive efforts of the bovine stomach. They pass through and out into the manure and the next year start new centers of influence in all parts of the farm. A good deal of care needs to be exercised in this case. The greatest trouble is that the farmer does not know the new weeds till they have been thus successively sown and re-sown.

#### Good and Poor Seed Corn.

Recently in passing a new field of corn, a resident farmer remarked to the writer on the variability of seed corn, as to germinability. In the field a large part of the corn was coming up beautifully. In the other part of the field almost none was to be seen, the demarcation between the two sections being as distinct as if a straight line had been drawn through the field and one-half left unplanted. Yet the whole field was planted on the same day with corn bought from two neighbors. The corn, too, was of the same variety; yet the seed corn saved by one man came up well and of the other hardly at all. The farmer was asked what made the difference and replied that it must have been in the way of taking care of the seed or of the maturity of the corn at the time it was harvested. It is easy to suppose that the farmer that furnished the worthless seed planted his own farm with it and had his work all to do over again. This is a lesson as to the value of good seed corn, and the unwisdom of planting seed without knowing whether it is good or not. Improvidence in this matter is the cause of the failure of many a farmer.

#### Forestry in Texas.

The United States Department of Agriculture is making estimates of the forest areas of Texas. We generally think of Texas as a state of immense prairies stretching in every direction. It is found that Texas has the largest wooded area of any state in the Union, that area being now not less than 64,000 square miles. Of this at least 27,000 square miles consist of merchantable timber. This does not include the chaparral growth. About 60 varieties of trees commercially important are reported. The most valuable forests are those of the eastern part of the state. This is because the rainfall here is abundant and the trees grow to a larger size than in the central or western part of the state. The state forest lands have been sold off till 95 per cent are in the hands of private owners.



#### Grass in the Apple Orchard.

Grass in the orchard has been the theme talked on by many a speaker at farmers' institutes. There have been a few men that have said it was a good thing, but more that have pronounced it to be one of the greatest enemies of apple growing. Grass in the orchard is a sentimental idea, far removed from that of practical use. It is very pretty to talk of lying under the apple trees looking up into the blossom-laden branches. Whenever the artist draws a picture of an orchard, be it full of blossoms or of bright red apples, the ground under it is covered with a rich carpet of grass, on which the ripe fruit may fall when it is ready for the hand of the gatherer. The city man that buys a farm in the country with an orchard on it, takes not kindly to the idea of plowing up the sod of his orchard. He would far rather keep it cut short by the use of the lawn mower, that it might be a play ground for his children. Well, wherever a man can afford to put sentiment at the front the sod in the orchard is all right. The man that wants a summer home where the red apple falls onto a green carpet of verdure can perhaps afford to put up with a less crop of apples and probably he gets his money out of it.

But the farmer that has to make money out of his orchard has a different proposition. He has to set sentiment aside. The poetry of life would cost him too dearly if made the basis of his orcharding. He must put in the cultivator and the harrow and prevent the ground from bearing anything else than apples, provided the orchard be not on a hillside that would wash in rainy weather if left bare of grass. He cannot afford to have the roots of the grass using up the plant food that should be given to the roots of the apple trees. He cannot afford to have the moisture that falls from the clouds arrested by the grass roots before it gets deeper down to the roots of the apple trees. This loss of moisture is a very serious affair in times of drouth when the amount of water falling would be hardly sufficient for the trees themselves. There is no question that on level land the soil of the apple orchard should be cultivated so thoroughly that no weeds will grow unless it be late in the season, and then they should be turned under by the cultivator in the spring.

#### Tub Grown Lemon Trees.

The growing of lemon trees in tubs is becoming something of a fad in some of our northern localities. Doubtless a good many of our readers have tried at various times to grow lemons and have succeeded in getting good-sized trees, which, however, never bore anything of value. The trouble was that the tree had not been grafted. The lemon tree that is to bear good fruit must be grafted from a tree that is bearing good fruit, and in most cases the tree from which to do the grafting is not at hand. Probably if anyone wants to raise lemons in tubs, the best way is to secure a tree from a reputable nursery that handles such trees and that has guaranteed that the tree has been grafted from some good variety. It is reported that in some parts of the north people that have these trees in tubs get from them a great many lemons yearly, the quality of the lemons being better than of those imported. At any rate the lemon tree is an interesting object. Grown in a tub it may be kept out of doors in summer and in the house in the winter. The lemon was unknown to the Greeks and Romans and is supposed to be a rather modern fruit. It was introduced into Spain by the Arabs in the fourteenth century and in the very end of that century lemons found their way to England, having been grown in the Azore islands.



#### The Codling Moth.

The codling moth is without doubt the most important insect enemy with which apple growers in the United States have to contend. The pest does not at the present time appear to have reached all the apple growing regions of the United States, notably some parts of the northwest regions of the country, including Oregon and Washington. Yet how soon it will become a destructive pest there no one can tell. The insect is easy to distribute, as everyone that has purchased apples can well understand, for the worm travels incognito in the fruit itself. The part of the apple with the worm in it is thrown out on the ground and in due time the moth emerges. This is doubtless the way in which the pest has been spread. Of course no man in making a shipment of apples has taken a second thought of this matter. When fruit is shipped long distances in boxes and barrels the worms have frequently emerged from the fruit and spun cocoons in the corners of the boxes and the moths have come out before the apples were disposed of. When the boxes were opened the moths, of course, went out and sought the nearest apple trees. Where there are large commission houses the larvae crawl out of the apples and often get into cracks and under boards and spin their cocoons, and thence the moths emerge to become the means of infesting the orchards in that vicinity. When the spreading of this pest is so easily accomplished, it is a wonder that any part of the country remains where the codling moth is not.

Had our people at first well understood the importance of this pest and the method it uses in spreading from locality to locality it would have been comparatively easy to have prevented its spread altogether, for then only perfectly sound apples could have been shipped to new localities. But with this, as with most of the other pests that have made trouble, we ourselves imported it and carried it about with us, never thinking about the possible results. Now it must be fought and at great expense year by year in a million orchards. Our improvidence is costing us dearly. The spraying of the trees with arsenical poisons at the time the codling moths are laying their eggs is the only remedy that is very effective.

#### Patent Absurdities.

If farmers would read more they perhaps would be caught by the sharpers less often than they are. It seems of little use however to warn farmers against being caught by the various swindles that are being worked; for the reason that the farmers that are the dupes are the ones that do not read agricultural papers. We believe that very few of our readers are food for such sharks. Some time ago a farmer in Oklahoma was worked by a man that was selling patent rights for a preparation that he claimed would, if put on trees, kill all the borers and that if buried in the ground of an orchard would cause all the gophers there to leave. He also told the farmer that the experiment station had offered \$3,000 for a half interest in the patent. The farmer wrote to the Oklahoma station asking if the thing was a fraud and received a reply that it was. The remarkable thing about such games is that they give enough revenue to keep the men that work them in good condition. This does not speak well for the acumen of the farmers that are swindled. The truth should be patent to all that there is no "cure-all" for any disease or insect. Gophers do not care what is buried in the ground an acre away and the borer does not care what preparation is put on the tree, so long as it is kept out of his hole.



#### Different Kinds of Dairy Associations.

There are a good many kinds of dairy associations, most of them entirely trustworthy and others not so much so. In the main, when dairy men go into an association it is with some high object in view. We notice by the dairy exchanges that in Wisconsin an association is trying to come into existence that is looked upon with a good deal of suspicion by men engaged in dairy work in the state. The cause of suspicion is always found in some way of making money for the promoters. In this case the association, which is for butter and cheese makers, starts out to get 1,000 members each one of which is to pay \$5 entrance fee and \$2 per year. The officers of the association are to have for their compensation such fees and dues as remain after paying operating expenses. In the case of securing 1,000 members this would mean receipts the first year of at least \$5,000, which might leave a very handsome purse to be divided between the three or four men that comprise the officers. An investigation into the personnel of the association showed that none of the officers were engaged in the making of butter and cheese, one being a station agent, another a hotel keeper and another a postmaster. The intentions of the organizers may be of the best, but they will certainly be under suspicion till they have proved that they are not trying to work simply a money making scheme.

#### Molasses for Milk Production.

Molasses for milk production is perhaps a new idea with most of our readers. In various parts of the tropical lands where molasses is very cheap, being a by-product of the sugar mills, it is being fed quite extensively, if we can speak of any dairy operation being extensive in a land where dairying is little practiced. In England and some other European countries experiments are being made with it, as it is quite cheaply obtained in some localities near beet sugar factories. It is not fed clear, but is mixed with various absorbents, among which are sphagnum moss and ground corn stalks. It can be fed only to the extent of one and two pounds a day, but is said to be very palatable and to be greatly liked by the cows. Probably if dairying develops much in the South, especially in the cane growing regions, we will hear of the increased use of this by-product for the feeding of dairy cows, as it is now being quite extensively used in the feeding of horses.

#### An Unsolved Problem.

There are a good many problems connected with the feeding of swine that have not been solved. One of these is why a certain combination of foods will give better results than certain other combinations. Thus it is discovered that skim milk and corn fed together give greater gains than when fed separately. One hundred pounds of skim milk has been fed to a growing pig and five pounds of gain made from it. After that 100 pounds of corn has been fed and a gain of ten pounds made with that. Then we would naturally think that the feeding of the two together would give fifteen pounds of gain. But this does not prove to be the fact. When these are fed together the gain in weight is eighteen pounds instead of fifteen, showing that three pounds was the result of the combination. With pigs as with other animals and as with man a variety of foods gives a better result than one alone, even when the one is very evenly balanced.

One of the commonest mistakes of the fruit grower is to neglect to cultivate his orchard.