

MEALS

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WINTERING-OVER OF WEEDS

BY HERBERT GROH.

With the arrival of winter comes a check to all vegetable growth, and an interesting question arises in one's mind as to what becomes of the many varieties of weeds, at that time. Are they killed, or are they to reappear? This we should know, so that the earliest opportunity may be taken to attack and exterminate them.

Weeds are commonly classified as annuals, biennials, and perennials, with winter annuals as a convenient though not very scientific further distinction. An annual weed may be a winter annual when it starts in the fall, and is fortunate in its location or in the season; or it may be regularly a winter annual a little farther north.

Annuals.—Ordinarily an annual is a weed that germinates in spring or early summer, grows and reproduces before winter, dying naturally or when caught by autumn frosts, and leaving its progeny safely tucked away within seed-coats capable of withstanding winter's adversities. It is the seed of the annual therefore, that holds the strategic position, and its importance is well attested by the abundance of it, as compared with other weeds. If we can induce the seed to germinate before winter, or if we can start it early enough in spring, frost in the one case and preparation for spring-sown crops in the other will get it while young. Fall germination can only be secured by providing a moist, friable seed-bed through after harvest and fall cultivation. Even then some weeds, like wild oats, refuse to be tempted forth to their undoing; but the fall work is not entirely lost on them, since it prepares for their earlier start in the spring. For most annuals, any practice which will hasten spring germination, as fall instead of spring plowing, drainage and ridging up over winter if necessary to dry the land early, and running the harrows quickly over all bare fields before proceeding to all the other seeding operations, is all to the good. Many annuals are thus started before any crop is in the way of their destruction. Still another starting of them may be overtaken yet by harrowing young grain if it has not been seeded down. This is a favorite means of reducing Russian thistle in spring grain, and can often be used against the annual mustard.

Winter Annuals, which differ in being able to survive the winter as seedlings, include such well known weeds as shepherd's purse, stink-weed, tumbling mustard, false flax and chess. Having a root system already developed, they are able in the spring to outstrip the farmer who is not promptly on the job. They are soon too sturdy to be easily uprooted, and some are in bloom by the time other vegetation is starting. Stinkweed and shepherd's purse may commence flowering at an

inch or two in height, and may even go into the winter in bloom, remaining fresh under the snow, and producing to mature seed on the return of warm weather. Even more than for annuals it is important to attend closely to the condition of the fields at wintering-in, and in early spring. Winter annuals starting in fall-sown grain may sometimes be thinned out by a stroke of the harrow before the ground becomes too hard in spring. Otherwise hand-pulling, a desirable safe-guard in any event, becomes unduly laborious.

Biennial weeds usually start growth early enough in the summer to provide themselves a stout tap-root, and a strong rosette of leaves lying snugly on the ground to carry them through the winter and furnish reserve food for the flower-stem which is quickly pushed up in the second year. Blue-weed and evening primrose are good examples. Unless killed as seedlings, the broad-shared cultivator is the best implement for them; or they may be spudded or hand-pulled while the ground is soft. Such weeds simply branch out again, and go to seed a little later, if mowed, or cut above the crown only once.

Perennial weeds, while also reproducing by seed, maintain themselves from year to year by their strong root systems, which may be creeping, like those of the Canada and perennial sow thistles, or short and fleshy as with the docks and dandelion. No simple operation in fall or spring will suffice to exterminate the average perennial, although exposure to the action of frost on an up-turned furrow or ridged land will help. Most perennials come through the winter primed for vigorous growth; and except in land to be under fallow or a tilled crop, it is usually most practicable to let them spend themselves in preparation for seed production, and then by timely cutting of hay or grain, prevent this. Plowing before the plant has a chance to replenish its lost stores must then be followed up by close starvation of the underground parts by the use of the broad-shared cultivator as often as they would reach the light; or in some few cases by dragging them out bodily into the hot sun to dry. Couch grass and dock, in fact, are better removed entirely when this is possible. A mere occasional stirring of perennial rootstocks only serves to break them up and transplant them, like so many cuttings.

Rotations.—It cannot be over emphasized that a regular short rotation of crops, which provides a cleaning crop at intervals, smother crops of clover, etc., and at all times, the most thrifty and complete possession possible of the soil by crops, is the best insurance against weeds. In addition, enough should be known of the special life history of each weed to guide one in the choice of additional methods of attack and to make them seasonable.

A BOY'S APPEAL FOR CANADA'S FORESTS

(An essay written by Percy Russell, age 10 years, grade 6, Field, B.C.)

MISS ETHEL J. MILLAR, Teacher.

"Protect the Forest! It is yours!" should be our slogan. All Canadians should accept and help because we derive much revenue from Forests. Our national development, our future welfare, and our industries depend entirely on the forests.

Protection of forests reduces taxation. The forest fire loss to Canada is \$15,000,000 annually, and no nation can survive continual losses of this nature. The welfare of Canada depends on a sufficient supply of cheap wood. Few Canadians realize the importance of this. All should be trained to be careful of fire.

Forest fires are an annual occurrence. Ground fires, surface fires, and Crown fires do much damage. Fires spread rapidly through undergrowth, and dead trees. The bearded growth on old evergreens carries fire quickly. Shavings from mills cause many fires. Fires travel up hill quickly. Burning trees fall and start fires lower down. Wind, heat and dry weather aid fires. Dampness and heavy dew hinder small fires.

Fires leave desolation in their path. As eighty-six per cent of the fires are due to human agency, they could be prevented. Settlers clearing land, and railroad camps are responsible for many fires. Tourists and hunters leave camp-fires and throw down matches and cigarettes. In 1918 a fire (caused by campers) between Banff and Fernie, caused considerable damage. Last year at Emerald Lake a fire, started from cigarettes, was reported by a fourteen-year-old boy.

The value of forests to British Columbia people is shown in the lumber, pulp and shipping industries. After a fire, mills and factories close; railroad construction stops; and transportation ends. All industries depending on the forest stop. Men become idle; pay-rolls are wiped out; and lumber revenues cease. The district is depopulated and hunters, settlers and tourists avoid it. Wild life disappears, burned land is useless for farming; water is scarce; and scenic beauty is lost. The annual loss to Canada is \$15,000,000. "The young growth of to-day is the forest of tomorrow." Keep the forests for future generations.

Be careful of fire! Fires can be located by close observation from

Fall Ploughing for Corn.

Says the Dominion Field Husbandman in his report of last year's operations: "The value of fall plowing clay land for corn has been again observed. Spring plowing is the usual practice on the sandy loam soil at the Experimental Farm, but for heavy clay land this method gives much lower yields. The practice of simply plowing clay land once in October has given in the last two years a slightly larger yield than where the land was plowed in August and ridged up late in the fall, or trenched the remainder of the season and spring plowed. However, the plowing of the soil in August, the cultivating of the land, and the plowing is very effective in controlling weeds. If many weeds are present therefore this additional cultivation will prove profitable."

SMART COAT FOR GIRLS.

Sturdy, durable and correct, with a free and easy smartness. Nutria fur makes the collar of this double-breasted straight-line coat, fashioned of cinnamon-brown chinchilla and lined throughout with flannel. Deep sleeves, and patch pockets proclaim their usefulness on cool days. The flannel pictures the simple design of the partly finished coat, No. 1215, which is in sizes 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years. Size 8 years requires 2 1/2 yds. of 36-inch, or 1 1/4 yards of 54-inch material. The lining requires the same amount of material as the coat. Price 20 cents.

You will be surprised to see how quickly the garments shown in our new Fashion Book may be made by the home dressmaker. No expense has been spared to make our styles as represented in our patterns, the very best that can be produced by the most competent designers and cutters. These designers originate their patterns in the very heart of the style centres, so that their creations are those of tested popularity brought within the means of the average woman. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred); wrap it carefully for each number, and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

Bill's at the Fair.

My vacuum sweeper's broken, The toaster's on the blink, There's something in the drain pipe That's stopped up the kitchen sink. The hired men are quitting, The barn is full of flies, The crops all look so seedy, It brings tears to my eyes. The place is going to ruin, But Bill, he doesn't care, Because he's showing cattle.

At the Tinkum County Fair, For Bill is "Fair Show" crazy, His farm it just can ride, With cane in hand, for hours he'll stand.

To watch the judge decide, Some ribbons blue may come his way, But if they don't he's just as gay. For Bill won't care, just so he's there To show his cattle at the Fair. They talk about us women, Why, the simplest can't compare, With any man that's got a bunch Of cattle at a Fair.

Alfalfa as a Pasture.

Alfalfa as a pasture is relished by all classes of stock, but there is a tendency for the animals to bloat under certain circumstances. This may be overcome, according to a bulletin on Alfalfa in Manitoba just issued by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, by refraining from pasturing when the plants are moist with dew and by preventing the animals from gorging themselves. Ruminating animals should be gradually accustomed to this pasture. Close grazing should be avoided. There should be no pasturing in the seedling down year, and very little in the second season.

To Make Steak Tender.

Many people use a knife for pounding beefsteak, in order to make it more tender before frying. It cuts the fibres slightly, and thus makes the steak a little more tender. A far more effective method, however, is to dip the steak in flour, then pound it well, on both sides, with something heavy, as a potato masher. The heavy metal masher is best of all for this purpose. Steak treated in this way will be found amazingly tender and delicious.

Without sunlight, mineral salts in the blood of chicks were not deposited in the bone, and the chicks developed leg weakness or rickets, and made no growth. The same thing, the experimenters say, applies to children, and to all forms of animals liable to bone disease.

S.S. LESSON

November 15. Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem, Acts 21: 17 to 22: 30. Golden Text.—If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed.—1 Peter 4: 16.

SUBJECT.

THE NATIONAL INDICTMENT OF PAUL AT JERUSALEM.

INTRODUCTION.—What Paul had predicted during his last journey to Jerusalem came to pass. Jewish anger, which had been steadily growing against one whom they supposed to be the betrayer of the nation, came to a head, and Paul was seized and roughly handled by an incited multitude, from whom he was only saved by intervention of the Roman garrison. It must be remembered that Jewish national feeling against the Roman government was rising steadily. The Jews, misled by fanatical leaders, had drifted irrevocably on to the course which little more than ten years later brought about the fatal rebellion in which Jerusalem went down in blood and slaughter. To such people, bent on recovering the Jewish national independence of Judea, the very existence of Paul was abhorrent. By declaring that the law was abrogated in Christ, and that the old barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles had been taken down, he was held to be a traitor who had signed away the national hope. Consequently, we understand the nature of the attack now made on him, and in our study of the lesson we shall have to attend to the details of the national indictment.

V. 27. Paul on arriving at Jerusalem, had, in conversation with James, the president of the Jewish Church, learned that there were many Jewish Christians who were out of sympathy with his teaching regarding the Law and the institutions of Moses, and James urged him to correct these misunderstandings, Acts 21: 17-26. Needless to say, however, it was not from these Jewish Christians, but from the non-Christian nationalists, that the attack upon his life now proceeded. The signal came from certain Jews who had observed Paul in Asia. Seeing him in the temple, they immediately incited the mob to seize him and bring him to account.

V. 28. The cry is spread that the national hope is in danger. They have found in the very temple the renegade cause of the Jewish people. First, he has spoken against the people by his monstrous assertion that God has given his kingdom to the Gentiles. Secondly, he has spoken against the Law by declaring that it has been repealed through Christ. Thirdly, he has defamed the place, that is, the temple, by saying that it will pass away, and that Christian believers are the true temple of God. As the Jews believed that God intended his kingdom only for themselves, and only upon condition of their keeping the Law, and as they further believed that, when God came to set up his kingdom, he would suddenly appear in his temple (Malachi 3:1), it can be seen that the charge against St. Paul was a very serious one in the Christian Jewish eyes. And as if all this was not enough, they now rake up the charge that Paul had introduced Greeks into the inner court of the temple, and so defiled it. This, if true, was an offence punishable with death.

V. 29. It is apparent, however, that the last charge was quite untrue. The accusers had seen Paul, accompanied by Trophimus the Ephesian, in the streets, and they imagined that he must have taken him into the temple. Inscriptions, placed all along the wall between the outer and the inner court of the temple, forbade any Gentile to advance into the inner court upon pain of death. One of these inscriptions has been discovered in recent years.

Vs. 30-36. The effect of all these charges upon a populace seething with national indignation was indescribable. Paul was rushed out of the temple, the doors behind him being immediately locked, and the apostle was on the point of being murdered by the mob, when the captain of the Roman guard located in the fortress of Antonia, just north of the temple area, got word of the riot and promptly arrived on the scene. His appearance with a troop of soldiers and officers at his back imposed a check on the rioters, and they stopped beating Paul. Unable to find out from the contradictory cries of the mob who Paul was and what was his offence, the captain of the guard thought it best to take him into custody. But so extreme was the popular violence that when they came to the steps leading up to the barracks at the Antonia fortress, Paul had to be lifted bodily by the soldiers and hurried into safety.

Vs. 37, 39. And here a surprise was in store for the captain. Paul had asked permission to speak to the people. The captain, before granting it, was led to ask Paul if he was not the Egyptian who, some years before, had headed a popular rising against the government. Paul replied proudly: "No, I am a Jew, a native of Tarsus in Cilicia, a Burgess of a very famous city." This was enough for the captain of the guard, and he gave him permission accordingly. The "Egyptian" in question was a false prophet who induced thousands, belonging to the Jewish anti-Roman organization known as the Sicarii or Assassins—hence "murderers," as they are here called—to follow him into the wilderness, promising that if they would join him in a march on Jerusalem, the walls would fall down before them. The insurrection was crushed by Felix and the ring-leader fled. Hence the captain's question.

In setting a mousetrap, since the meat over the fire just a moment after putting it in place—the odor will prove very enticing to Mr. Mouse.

I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel; shall their fold be.—Ezekiel 34:14.

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

The Northern Ontario Women's Institutes in Convention.

Owing to the expanding needs of the work, it was decided this year to hold two Women's Institute Conventions, one at Elk Lake for the far north, the other at Burk's Falls for the centre north, instead of the one formerly held at North Bay. Both were very successful in forming a meeting ground for the discussion of needs and reports of achievements of Northern Ontario branches and districts.

Crisp and bright as their words and lakes, the delegates came with an infectious give-and-take spirit to meet each other and the Departmental representatives, living up to the old motto, "If you know a good thing, pass it on."

The Mayor arrived promptly to welcome the visitors to his pretty town. His address was replied to by Mrs. Mawhinney of Huntsville, District President of Muskoka, who with a number of fellow delegates were specially invited guests of the Northern Convention.

Health services from various sources, travelling libraries, education in the Institutes and public schools, the demonstration-lecture courses, program planning, and co-operation with the Institutes of older Ontario were some of the subjects which received attention in the brisk discussions through which a merry laugh rolled not infrequently, or which an interval of community singing agreeably interrupted.

"Not only what to do—but how to do it," was the insistent demand as the branch reports came on and the Convention took time to interrogate delegates whose branch seemed to be getting unusually good results in home management, community progress, recreational features, or growth in members.

"Give everybody something to do, not too much, but something," advised New Liskeard, telling how they revived a branch membership from seven to eighty-five. "Feed the men, Masonic and other banquets are good service and good publicity agents besides. At our Mothers' Day we had 175 mothers. This was achieved by one taking care of several families so the mothers could get out. We find the sewing course makes good dressers as well as good needlewomen."

Much help given to local needy families was reported and the blind received the usual steady practical sympathy from the branches as well as the school fairs, and Sick Children's Hospital. Trout Creek, consulting five water coolers to its four schools.

Home tinkering as a practical matter for a series of demonstrations on the monthly program brought on a lively discussion as to the question of raising money. The general feeling was that it was a form of graft which should not be encouraged in sound community building.

One of the delightful social features was a visit to the spacious and beautifully kept Children's Shelter at Burk's Falls, which most of the branches assist as part of their immigration work. They were very proud of the fact that the baby of the Institution had carried off first prize at the Baby Show held recently.

ESSENTIALS IN THE SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTE.

"It is being more generally realized every year," said Superintendent Geo. A. Putnam, speaking on Essentials in Institute Work, "that the Women's Institutes can be depended upon to be on the job. Not only that, but to be on the right job at the right time. The results of over a quarter of a century of this in the changed and improved conditions of social life in the country and in the status of women themselves—the development of individual talent and the way in which combined talents are made the property of the whole community as formerly they were not."

While the Provincial and District Conventions are of very real value in this broad sharing of the best ideas and methods of work and in the inspiration that comes from numbers, the thing of real value of the greatest value is the work done in its own community by the branch and the branch members.

How can this best be accomplished? By making a survey first, informing yourselves of the needs of your own home, your own community. Ask yourselves, "What can a group of women do, working co-operatively, to better conditions in this neighborhood?" Then plan a program which will meet the essentials. Utilize local resources to the fullest possible extent. Arrange educational gatherings, social gatherings, a feature of which shall be chatting together on matters of vital interest.

Inform yourselves as to the services available from the various Government Departments, from the Colleges, in the shape of literature, libraries, films, lectures, technical education which can be brought to your own community instead of having to go away for it. Arrange for systematic instruction in sewing, foods and feeding, home nursing, millinery, in the neighborhood.

Plan for your boys too, courses in mechanics, carpentering, masonry.

Women of to-day have responsibilities outside of the home. They must guide community housekeeping as well as their own.

as their own, must consider the social conditions and educational facilities in the community," Mr. Putnam continued at the evening session in discussing the future of Institute activities. "They must remember that not only Canada but England, Scotland, European countries keep their eyes on Ontario as the leader in this work."

"The Women's Institutes are the most important development in the social and agricultural life of Scotland for the last hundred years," said Sir Robert Grieg, Commissioner of Agriculture for Scotland recently. "Men say agriculture, money, manufactures are the most important, but wisely, judiciously to expend these resources is quite as important, if not more so. The results of Institute activity so far, are seen in better educational facilities, saner schools, sounder health. This work is not yet completed. It must be carried on into the future. We must not pause until we have taught through the monthly meetings, by word of mouth, by demonstrations, by short courses, the art of living a wholesome, happy, successful life, until we know as much of the care of our bodies as we know now of the efficient care of our cars, radios, aeroplanes."

"The Institute members can be a real factor in the improving and stabilizing of agriculture, a medium for the passing on of useful information which has been tried out. The Women's Institutes can be made the supporter of sound community building and a national force in education, administration, and legislation."

(Continued next week.)

Dominion Experimental Farm System.

The Director's report of Dominion Experimental Farm operations for the year ending March 31 last issued in printed form is particularly interesting, showing as it does the magnitude and magnificence of the work of the system, which extends over the entire country—from Prince Edward Island in the east to British Columbia in the west, to the boundary on the south and to the Yukon and Northwest Territory on the north. There are fourteen Divisions in the system, each with an expert and thoroughly practical chief; four branch farms, at Nappan, N.S., Brandon, Man., Indian Head Sask., and Agassiz, B.C., eighteen stations covering each and every province, two sub-stations, and half a dozen minor sub-stations, reaching to the Yukon and almost to the farthest north in all the provinces. Each has a well trained practical agriculturist at its head, mainly college graduates and degree holders, and some doctors or masters of science. E. S. Archibald, B.A., B.S.A., formerly Dominion Animal Husbandman, is the Director and chief over all, having seven years ago succeeded Dr. J. H. Gradale now Deputy Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa. The report, which occupies 90 pages, furnishes particulars, necessarily in summarized form, of the operations of each of the fourteen divisions and the 27 farms, stations, sub-stations and minor sub-stations. This includes an account of the work of the Division of Illustration Stations, 145 in number in 1924 and which are being added to every year. The work of these stations is being carried on on privately-owned road-fronting farms, where the operations can best be observed and noted by the greatest number of neighbors. Counsel and information by actual demonstration are given in all the arts of the farm, thus taking knowledge gained from the experimental system and the agricultural college direct to the farmer.

The Lamb Fair Improves the Value of Quality.

It has not been unusual in the past to hear even farmers refer to prize winning animals at the larger fairs as "fancy stock." The lamb fair, a development of policies, operated by the Federal Live Stock Branch, is helping to correct this mistaken view in showing as it does that the most perfect sheep as seen in the show ring is most valuable both from the standpoint of marketing and economy of production. Many sheep raisers are having impressed upon them as never before that the profit that may be obtained from the flock bears a close relationship to the quality of the breeding stock and therefore of their produce. The lamb fair is proving the economy of the better sire and it is becoming easier each year for the owners of pure bred flocks to find ready sale for their first-rate rams.

Let Tires Save Your Feet.

Wornout inner tubes from your car are useful when cut into rubber bands, but they are also useful when woven into a rug to rest tired feet. To make this rubber rug, cut the inner tube into strips an inch wide and weave into a mat the desired size, using the in-and-out basket weave, or felt rug weave. The different braiding can be used and put together with heavy cord. Fasten the ends with braids, or the sink or work table where one stands most, and the softness and spring of the rubber make one's feet.

When dirty, the rubber rug can be washed through a tub of water and dried quickly in the open air.