Agricultural.

THE CANADA THISTLE.

The following Editorial from this journal of July 12, 1864, we re print for the benefit of our farmers who are cursed or threatened with the Canada Thistle We entreat every farmer to examine the raw and the suggestions herewith given carefully, as a little timely care may prevent a most dangerous foe of good husbandry from gaining a formidable foot-hold on his lands.

One of the greatest cares of the farmer now is to keep his land clear of dangerous weeds, which pollute his soil, exhaust its strength, and sometimes almost if not entirely destroy his crops. Of late years the most dangerous weed has been the *Canada Thistle*. Until recently it was unknown in this section of the country; but it has steadily followed the lines of transportation, especially the railroads, until it has made a lodgment in the Cumberland Valley. It abounds in the streets of Chambersburg about the Railroad buildings, and is spreading gradually over the country. The seed protected by its coat of down, is wafted by the winds for miles, and wherever it falls, whether the soil be rich or poor, the Canada Thistle, will grow; and when it once gets a start, it will allow of no division of the soil, but claims all the nourishment for itself. Its roots penetrate the earth very deep, and spread from year to year, until the ground becomes but a net-work of Thistle roots. Unlike the common thistle it is most tenacious of life. The farmer may mow it down, but he will find ten new stocks springing up in place of the old one, and so it steadily extends until it becomes perfectly master of the soil.

The season of the year is at hand when the Canada Thistle must be attended to. It will soon bloom, and unless seasonable war is made upon it with mattock and salt, its seed will ripen, and it will be spreading all over the country in its downy bed. Every plan of culture of the ground has been tried to exterminate this seed, but without success; and it is pretty well settled that in but one way can successful war be made upon it. Just when it is in bloom take a mattock and cut the stocks off even with the top of the earth, and drop a spoonful of salt on the scalp. In a majority of cases the roots will die, and as the seed on the stock are destroyed before maturity it is prevented from spreading. We entreat every farmer not to delay in hacking carefully over his entire farm including the lanes and fence corners, and if a stock of the Canada Thistle can be found let it be cut out and salt applied to the stump at once It abounds more particularly along the line of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, but it is spreading over many portions of the Southern section of the county.

In most of the States the destruction of the Canada Thistle is made obligatory. In Pennsylvania we have a statute on the subject, passed March 22d, 1862, which imposes severe penalties for permitting the Thistle to go to seed. In order that our farmers may fully understand their duty to themselves and each other in the matter we copy the law entire.

SECTION 1 *Be it enacted &c.* That from and after the passage of his act, it shall be the duty of every person or persons, and of every corporation holding land in this Commonwealth, either by lease or otherwise, on which any Canada Thistles, or weeds commonly known as Canada Thistle, may be growing to cut the same, so as to prevent such weeds or thistles from going to seed, and the seed of the same from ripening; and any person or persons, or corporation as aforesaid, who shall or may have land as aforesaid, in the said counties, and who shall neglect or refuse to comply with the provisions of this act, shall forfeit and pay a fine of fifteen dollars, one-half to the county treasurer, and the other half to the use of the person suing for the same, who shall be a competent witness to prove the facts, to be recovered as other debts of the like amount before any justice of the peace, or in any court of record in said county.

SECTION 2. That if any person or persons, or corporation, so holding land as aforesaid, on which Canada Thistles, or the weeds commonly known as such, shall be growing and likely to ripen seed there on, neglect or refuse to cut and destroy the same, so as to prevent the seed therefrom ripening, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons, who may consider themselves aggrieved, or about to be injured by such neglect or refusal to give five day's notice in writing to such person or persons or corporation, to cut and destroy such weeds or thistles; and on their neglect or refusal to cut and destroy the same at the end of five days, it shall and may be lawful for any person or persons so aggrieved, or believing themselves about to be injured thereby, to enter upon, or hire other persons to enter upon such premises, and cut down and destroy such Canada Thistles; and the person or persons so employed, shall be entitled to recover from such person or persons, or corporation, owing or holding such land, compensation at the rate of two dollars per day, to be sued for and recovered as debts of like amount, before any justice or court in said counties.

We have some ten native and introduced species of thistle, but there are only two which are very troublesome to the farmer, and these are foreigners. The common "Bull thistle," or "Michigan thistle," (*Cirsium lanceolatum*) as it is sometimes called, is the commonest of our thistles. It is readily known by its broad luxuriant foliage and its large heads which are an inch or more in diameter. Though exceedingly troublesome, especially in grain fields, where its prickly leaves are a great annoyance to the binder, it is not difficult to exterminate. Being a biennial the root is readily pulled. A far more troublesome plant is the Canada Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) which is perhaps the worst weed with which the farmer has to contend. This differs from the common thistle in being a perennial, besides its strong roots, it throws out into the soil numerous strong root-stocks, or under ground stems, which from a partial warfare against them only flourish and multiply. When one Canada Thistle appears upon the farm the war must begin. It is modest in its first appearance, presenting but a small tuft of prickly leaves, often hidden by the grass, but it must be exterminated at once. If let alone, the root stock extends itself for a long distance in all directions, and branches are thrown up to the surface. These are apparently winter-killed, but the returning summer shows that this is not the case, they are only killed down to the ground, and as soon as favorable weather comes their prickly stems arise from the subterranean buds and stand up in bristly defiance to the cultivator. Wherever a Canada Thistle appears, cut it down. We have but little belief in specific applications to weeds, but we have known these and other thistles to be destroyed by cutting as soon as they appeared and applying salt to the portion remaining in the ground. Whether the first year's attempt at extermination, this pest is successful or not it is a duty that each farmer owes, not only to himself but to his neighbors, to prevent dissemination: let no plant upon the premises flower, much less perfect its seeds Patience and frequent cutting as fast as it appears above the surface, will in time destroy it.—*Franklin Repository.*

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