WEED PROBLEMS IN RELATION TO THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF FARM SEEDS

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Weeds present an agricultural problem as old as time and as new as today. With old-fashioned weapons and by the sweat of the brow, the earliest farmers battled to save their crops from the onslaught of enemy plants. With much the same sort of weapons and by dint of the same hard labor, the farmer of today struggles against a seemingly increased host of these same enemies.

The weed problem is attracting new and rather wide attention, on the part of several interests. The farmer, of course, is vitally concerned, and anything new by way of weed control measures attracts his immediate attention. The state is interested, and many states have weed laws, while nearly all have seed laws dealing with the weed problem.

Naturally, every seedsman is interested, as weeds directly affect his cost of doing business and the quality of his product. Closely associated with the seedsmen's interest is that of the commercial and the official seed analysts seeking to evaluate seed largely on the basis of its freedom from or contamination with the seed of weeds.

The implement manufacturer is interested in building and selling more effective weed control machinery. Manufacturers of seed-cleaning equipment have the same end in view. More recently, chemical companies have been taking a major interest in weeds, while railroads and banks of some sections, recognizing in agriculture their chief means of support, are contributing time and money to weed control efforts.

The Seed Council of North America, an organization of groups interested in farm seeds with which this Society is associated, has undertaken something of a study of weed and seed laws and has before it at present some resolutions which have an important bearing on our attitude toward noxious weeds. And, finally, the United States Chamber of Commerce, through its agricultural committee, is seeking to bring together many of these interests for a thorough study of the weed problem and, if feasible, for a concerted drive against weed losses.

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