

## At Home Come in & Chat Awhile

—Ruth Raeburn.

Many a time it has puzzled people why God made so many weeds. Mr. Don. C. Seitz has put into an interesting article just what their mission on earth is and that we can be thankful for them.

At last, even the roundly condemned weed has found a champion. In the Outlook, Mr. Don C. Seitz makes out a quite convincing and decidedly eloquent case for weeds of whatever variety and wherever encountered. They are, he says, "the wound dressers of the soil." Whenever man or nature makes a scar, the vigorous, coarse-fibered weeds find out the spot and straightway mend the injury. Hated and much objugated, the weed, of whatever breed, is one of the most useful forces in nature. The farmer regards it as a foe, the gardener as a nuisance. In truth, it is a friend that persists, regardless of ill treatment and attempts at extirpation. Soil, to preserve its strength, must be protected with some sort of nature covering, otherwise the rains leach it, or wash away the precious particles of mold that make it reproductive. Man neglects this factor in his dealings with the earth. Plowed fields are allowed to go uncovered after the crop is harvested. Washouts are left to take care of themselves. So is burned over land. In all three instances great damage results, and more would follow but for the energy of the weed family.

How weeds seed so swiftly is one of the benign mysteries. Could man find it out he would soon become the destroyer he likes to be, to his own great harm. Therefore the weed keeps its secret. We only know that on every bare and neglected spot where it is possible for seed to lodge or root to hold the weed appears and lustily seizes the bare spot. Soon verdure shows, the soil is held together against the shower. Nitrogen is coaxed from the air and distributed about the roots. The leaves and stalks decay in the fall and a little "top soil" is created, which grows with the seasons. In time enough is created to afford life to finer plants and the soft grasses. The wound is healed.

"The weeds themselves are often replaced by others in the course of their operations as salvors. Soil wounds are not all caused by abrasions. Some are sores made by dumping refuse, creating besides unseemly sights and smells and smothering out the gentler plants. I recall a notable case of weed-work. Some years ago the town of New Rochelle, in New York, selected a swamp on the line of the New Haven Railroad as a dumping-ground for refuse. The ashes and other debris were thrown over a ledge, creating a nuisance to the eye and nose, and, what was worse, poisoning the half-dozen acres in the swamp, so that nearly all the plant life died. Where the frogs had sung in cheerful tones a rusty scum appeared, and where in autumn glorious colors showed there was nothing but the dull red tinting of the rust. The ledge had become a mountain of ashes, from which tin cans rippled into the swamp. It was altogether a most dolorous exhibition of the desolating carelessness

of mankind, where convenience outweighed all other considerations. No thought was given to the appearance of approach to the town—an American habit, by the way, it being customary to brighten the railroad vicinage with garbage. The thing went on for several years, and the festering mound grew in unsightliness.

"Finally, the vandals who did it shifted their ground and left the scene to nature. The Jimson-weed (stramonium) was the first one bold enough to tackle the discouraging desolation. Soon its broad leaves appeared and its strong roots found foothold in the ashes. With the growing summer its pale-blue blossoms gave a shy touch of color to the dismal mound of gray. With the fall its seed pods rattled full. These seeds are poisonous, and little children are often killed by them. Fortunately, the ash-heap was too isolated for childish feet and the stramonium brought no harm in its wake. The next year the valiant ragweed, with its thick branches, crept up the slope. In the rusty waste at the base of the cliff the fireweed found a place and fringed the edge of the ash-heap. Thus a filter of roots was found that checked the passage of the lye into the swamp. It was not long before the desolation began to show signs of life. The flags peeped out of the morass. Young swamp maples and black alders began to appear. Other trees whose roots like water followed and tall grasses grew green on the borders. In another season it was dotted with oases of green, that became bronze and gold in autumn. By the next spring the frogs renewed their clamor and small turtles came from somewhere to sit on the stumps in the sun. Life had come back to the swamp. It was itself again, and now is finer than ever before in beauty and the great variety of its dwellers.

"But what of the gray ash-heap? No sign of it remains. It gives no trace of the rubbish that built it. Moreover, the weeds, having fulfilled their mission, have vanished too. Young trees and forest plants have taken their place, with grass where the soil is too thin for shrubbery. Complete replacement has come to mend all the injury done by the garbage gatherers. Man did nothing to remedy his outrages on nature. The despised weed has restored the landscape and hidden all the vile-ness that he brought to the pleasant place.

"The poets sing of grass and flowers and warble of the graces of the vine. Someone should pen a paean for the weed. But for it none of the others could make their way.

"The angry gardener should give pause to his wrath. The weed is but intervening to save him from his own undoing. Where his plants do not protect, the earth he should let the weed freely fulfill its function. The garden will be better for it and the invaders, mulched in the fall, will add an invaluable meed of richness to the "patch" than can be procured in no other way."

I looked where the roses were blooming—  
They stood among grasses and reeds;  
I said—Where such beauties are growing  
Why suffer these paltry weeds?  
Sighing the poor things faltered,  
We have neither beauty nor bloom.

We are grass in the rose's garden—  
But our Master gave us room.  
We have helped His humblest creatures  
We have served Him truly and long;  
He gave no grace to our features,  
We have neither color nor song.  
Yet He who has made the roses  
Placed us on the self-same sod;  
He knows our reason for being,  
We are grass in the gardens of God."

## HISTORY OF VARNEY

(Continued from page 1.)

1918, his father, the late James H. Kerr, moved his family to Varney and the following fall went into partnership with his son, Norman, adding to the plant a midget flour mill, and continued for six years. In 1924 Mr. Walter Kerr took over his father's share and the mill is still operating under the firm name of Kerr Brothers. On moving to Varney the late James Kerr erected a two-story red brick dwelling, still occupied by Mrs. Kerr and son Walter.

About 1866 Mr. Benjamin McKenzie started the first blacksmith shop on the west side of the road where Mr. Julius Keller's garden now is. Mr. George Snell and Mr. Thos. Pollock ran it for a time previous to Mr. Adam Little, who moved it across the road to the east side. It changed hands many times after this and the following persons ran it for a time: Mr. John Sirrs, Mr. Wm. J. McCalmon, Mr. Alf. McCabe, Mr. Robert Gadd, Mr. John Noble and lastly, Mr. Wm. Portice.

The first school was a log building at Barber's Corners. It was situated on the northeast corner of Maplewood cemetery. The first teachers were David Allan and John Allan, brother of the late Thomas Allan, who taught High School in Durham many years. The school section at that time was large, extending from Grassy's Corner at the town line, 1½ miles south of Durham, to the corner, near Orchardville. Needless to say the school was overcrowded. They sat on long benches and had scarcely sitting room. It became compulsory to build a new school, but this caused considerable trouble between the two townships, Egremont and Normanby and the building of a new school was delayed for quite a while. It was put in the hands of lawyers to arbitrate on the site of a new school and the present site was chosen. Shortly after the log school was closed there was school conducted for a couple of years in an old blacksmith shop on the corner of Robert Carmount's farm. Mr. Barnes was the teacher. Then a red frame school was built by Egremont township on the corner of Mr. Charles Rahn's farm, but it was burned two years after it was erected. In the meantime some of the children were attending Egremont No. 2, some Knox school, and others the Orchardville school after it was built. In 1900 the present white brick school was built. The first teacher was Miss Maud Banks, of Glenelg township. At New Years, 1901, the children moved into the new school. Miss Mildred Leeson taught a few months in the old school while the new one was being built. The register with the first pupils' names is not to be found in the school, but the following are the names as nearly as possible: Mary, James and Wm. Bogle; Wilbert and

Eva Blyth; Robert, Robina and Mina Gadd; Mae, Edith, Jean, Thomas and David Allan; Maggie, Pearl and Earl McCalmon; Robert, Arthur, Lizzie and James McIlvride; Bessie and Florence Clark; Stanley Telford; George and Harry Gray; James, Richard and Sarah Bryans; Charlotte, Thomas and Effie Hutton; Ida, Jennie and Harold Barber; Harry, George, William, David and Ethel Morrison; Florence and Hazel Barber; John, Mabel and Gladys Dunn; Winnie, Blanche and Cameron; Lauder; Bertha, Mabel, Ethel, Charles and Annie Pettigrew; Annie and William Petty.

The first church services were held in the homes, often at Wm. Backus', Mr. Alder's and Mrs. Grassy's. The first church was built on Mr. Walter McAlister's farm, and was known as the Grassy church. It was given by Mr. Wm. Watt in such a way that when it ceased to be a church it went back to the owner, hence the building could not be moved to the village where it would be more central. For a time services were held in the log school house at Barber's Corners, and at No. 2 Egremont school. A goodly number wanted a church built in Varney so in 1884 Mr. Ezekiel Aldred, father of John Aldred, Durham, purchased land from Mr. Rombough and gave the church the site of the present site where the white brick church was erected. The early members who were instrumental in building the new church were: R. Backus, Edward Fee, Thomas Grassy, Henry Leeson, Charles Caldwell, Ed. Rellly, Isaac Wilkinson, Richard Irving, Wm. Sirrs, Ed. Johnson, Mr. Rogers, Henry Petty and Wm. Fee. The first minister was Rev. Mr. Lake. Later Rev. John Pomeroy was the Methodist minister in Durham, and he, with assistant student ministers, supplied five charges in one day, namely, Durham, Varney, Zion, Vickers and Allan Park. Between the two ministers they managed to give Durham two services a day and Varney and each of the others one service a day. The first Sunday school was organized when the church was built, and the first superintendent was Mr. Henry Leeson. Mr. Richard Irving then continued for a time and Mr. John Aldred was then superintendent for 18 years. The average attendance in many of those years was over 70. Under the same superintendent Varney took a prize for being one of the best Sunday schools around. As a token of appreciation Mr. Aldred was presented with a fur overcoat. He then went west and Mr. James Blyth continued the good work for 11 years.

The Orange Hall was built in Varney in 1885 with Mr. Wm. H. Lee as the first Worshipful Master. The first hall before this time was on the 2nd concession of Egremont almost opposite St. Paul's church.

One of the first funerals which took place in Maplewood cemetery, which was then covered with trees, was the late Samuel Irving. He lived on the southeast corner, across from the cemetery and was a shoemaker by trade.

Mrs. Thos. Allan was the first child born in Varney 84 years ago last February 14, 1932, and she is still hale and hearty.

Varney was connected up with the outside world by telephone about 1914. The late Dr. Leeson became Varney's first member of Parliament in 1919 for a period of four years.

The U. F. W. O. Club was organized in Varney Hall, February, 1924. Dr. Leeson was chairman, with Mrs. Palmer Patterson the first president and Miss Margaret Leeson the first secretary-treasurer. The first meeting was held at Mrs. Earl Mead's.

The first to install Hydro was Mr. Norman Schenk in 1930, who is the only one in the entire community who has yet installed it.

Mr. Alf. McCabe in 1931 tore down the old house, once owned by Miss M. A. Fee and built an up-to-date gas station and garage.

In concluding just a word about the townships of Normanby and Egremont in which Varney is located on the Garafraxa road, which divides them. Normanby was named after an English nobleman bearing the same title. The survey was made in 1852 by the late David Gibson. It was not till 1856 that the lands were thrown open for sale by the government. The population of the township in 1871 was 5,563 much higher than the other townships of Grey, as the land on the average, was admitted to be better than that of any other township in the county. Egremont was slower in being settled on account of the land in the northern part being rougher. In 1850, which was the first year of the organization of the township, there were only thirty families within its limits and these were all on the Garafraxa road, or within two concessions of it. In 1871 the population was 3,949.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 2.)

inundated and houses surrounded by water in sections of the city.

Bringing retail merchants within the scope of the Debt Adjustments Act as one of its important recommendations, the report of a special committee of the Saskatchewan Legislature appointed to investigate creditor and debtor conditions in Saskatchewan was adopted shortly after it was presented to the House recently.

The report recommends that no action for foreclosures in Court of King's Bench or by procedure under the Land Titles Act be instituted without the consent of the debt adjustment commissions of the act.

The committee also recommends that no action for any debt in excess of \$100,000 be instituted without the consent of the commissioner of the Debt Adjustment Act.

No seizure under any chattel mortgage or lien could be made without the consent of the commissioner of the Debt Adjustment Act.

Nine-months-old Samuel Charlap, who ate handful after handful of table salt, died recently in Coney Island Hospital, New York, from the effects of convulsions and fever.

Small children placed a bag of salt in the baby's carriage while his mother was making a call.

"Only five bucks to Montreal, parlez-vous;  
Only five bucks to Montreal, parlez-vous;  
Only five bucks to Montreal, parlez-vous;  
I'm having a swell time, aren't we all?  
Hinky, dinky, parlez-vous."

Gathered in an intimate circle on the platform at the Union Station last Friday night, four young men sang the foregoing in honor of the occasion—the excursion rate of \$5 to Montreal and return provided by the Canadian Pacific Railway. The close harmony of the quartet was brought to an abrupt stop in the middle of the 85th verse as a trainman yelled "board."

These young minstrels were just four of the 2,500 people who took advantage

of the low rate, and travelled—sitting up—to Montreal. A carefree spirit that could only have been engendered by a first rate bargain, prevailed in the huge concourse of the Union Station. To many Montreal was just a myth; something heard of, but not seen. But with realization purchased, and just eight hours away, excitement was at high tide.

An honorary LL.D. degree will be conferred at the May convocation and graduation exercises of University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, on Senator Arthur Meighen, former Prime Minister of Canada and now leader of the Government party in the Senate. Senator Meighen will deliver the convocation address.

**WHEN BUYING FERTILIZER  
KNOW WHAT YOU GET**

One of the most important and valuable services rendered by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa to farmers throughout Canada is provided through the Fertilizer Division of the Dominion Seed Branch, which is charged with the administration of the Fertilizers Act. The Inspection Service maintained by this Division of the Department is charged particularly with seeing that all fertilizers sold are clearly marked as to the proportions of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash which the fertilizer contains. All fertilizer sold in Canada must be registered and sold under a minimum guaranteed analysis. The amount of each of these three fundamental soil foods must be clearly marked on the bag, or on a tag securely affixed to the bag in which the fertilizer is delivered. So effective is the operation of the Fertilizer Inspection Service that the Canadian farmer, or other buyer of fertilizer in Canada, may rest secure in the knowledge that he will have delivered to him the quantity of plant food which he buys. As a guide in the buying of fertilizer the federal Departmental publishes an official report of fertilizer analysis from year to year. The latest edition is available without charge on application to the Publications Branch of the Department at Ottawa.

Read The Classified Ads. on Page 7.

Tomatoes, Peas and Corn 3 for 25c	<p><b>LOOK OVER THE GROCERY SPECIALS!</b></p> <p><b>HENDERSON'S BREAD</b></p> <p>"The Better Loaf"</p> <p>BEST FOR CHILDREN AND BEST FOR YOU.</p> <p>A fine selection of CAKES — COOKIES — PASTRY always on hand.</p> <p><b>HENDERSON'S BAKERY</b></p> <p>THE HOME OF GOOD BREAD</p> <p>DURHAM - ONTARIO</p>	Tomato Juice 3 tins 25c
Eagle Brand Salmon, red large tin 25c		Manitoba Flour per 100 lb. \$2.30
Campbell's Soups 10c can		Pastry Flour 24 lbs. 55c
Large Size Bottle Catsup 18c		Heinz Pork and Beans Per can 8c
Shortening the best 16c lb.		2 lbs. Stoneless Dates 23c
Corn Flakes 3 pkgs. 25c		NuJell Powder 3 pkgs. 25c
Branston Sweet Pickle 20c With jar of Marmalade Free	FREE 2 cups & saucers with 1 lb. Rosedale Tea	

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Everything in Medicine for man or beast

ELKAY'S HAT DYE makes old hats look like new. Does not make the straw brittle. All colors 25c	JASMINE of Southern France Face Powder \$1.00 Perfume 75c Both for \$1.00 Face Cream 50c	BISMA-EX quickly relieves sour stomach, indigestion, peptic and heartburn 4% ounce for 75c	WALPOLE'S COD LIVER EXTRACT the year round tonic and bracer. \$1.00	WALLPAPER Sunworthy sale now on—25c and 35c. Other new papers 12c per roll and up. Room lots 20% discount
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