

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY

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VOL. II.

CROOKSTON, MINN., JANUARY, 1918

No. 2

ALUMNI REUNION, FEBRUARY 14. Notice by Secretary Skibness of the Alumni Association.

There will be a reunion of the Northwest School of Agriculture Alumni and former students in Crookston, February 14, 1918.

It was decided at the last regular meeting of the association to attempt a reunion during "Northwestern Minnesota Farmers' Week." This reunion will serve as a home coming day. A time when present and former students will get together. Being in Crookston at this time affords an opportunity of attending the meetings of "Farmers' Week" and learning how we may best serve our country by increasing production and eliminating waste.

The exact program for the day has not been announced, but it is definitely known that Dr. Marion L. Burton, president of the University of Minnesota, will deliver an address in the armory in Crookston the 14th. The exact program will be announced later.

Let's make this attempt a success. Let everybody be back in Crookston for "Farmers' Week," and especially for alumni day.

May it become a fixed practice to hold each year a home coming day.

Don't forget the dates
"Farmers' Week," February 11-15
Alumni Reunion February 14.

Write M. L. Skibness, Battle Lake, Minnesota, at once if you will come.

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA FARMERS' WEEK. FEBRUARY 11-15, 1918.

The complete program for the Northwestern Minnesota Farmers' Week is rapidly nearing completion. It has been decided that Monday, February 11, will be contest day including farmers' club stock judging, high school stock judging, high school corn and potato judging, and high school declamatory contests. In the evening there will be a banquet participated in by the judges and by the members of the different judging teams. On Tuesday, the rural school spelling contest will be held.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be live stock days. Assurances have been received that Professors Andrew Boss and H. H. Kildee, Dr. Carl W. Gay, Director A. D. Wilson, and Dean R. W. Thatcher will be present. On Wednesday evening, February 13, Premier T. C. Norris of Manitoba will speak. On Thursday, President M. L. Burton has consented to come, and Governor Burnquist will be present on Friday, February 15. In addition

there will be other speakers on other subjects so that the week will be full of splendid addresses covering the most important topics. It is hoped to have farm marketing discussed in full by men who have made a long study of this problem.

Women's problems will be taken up at joint and at separate meetings.

HONOR ROLL.

Anderson, Herbert, '17, navy, Mare Island, California.

Anderson, Raymond, '17, Hitterdal, draft.

Billings, Richard, '15, "Somewhere in France."

Billings, Robert, '15, Medical Corps, Camp Funston, Kansas City.

Boness, Olaf, '18, Camp Winfield Scott, California.

Johnson, Norris, '14, Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa.

Johnson, Harold, '14, Camp Kelly, 49 Aero Squadron, San Antonio, Texas.

Johnson, Willard, '15, Camp Dodge, Des Moines, Iowa.

Lien, Albert, Navy, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Lovcik, Stephen, 1st Company, Fort Prickens, Pensacola, Florida.

Lyngholm, John, Camp Mills, Hempstead, New York.

Lytle, Roy, Camp Cody.

Peterson, Walter.

Ronningen, Sam, Nielsville, drafted to go to Camp Dodge.

Rud, Henry, '16, Camp Winfield Scott, California.

Sheridan, Walter, Camp Joseph Johnston, Jacksonville, Florida.

Stow, Ray, '16, Jefferson Army Barracks, Missouri.

Stenseth, Martinus, '16, Aviation Corps, "Somewhere in France."

Albert Dahl, enroute to France.

From the Faculty.

A. E. Enerson.
W. C. Ferris.

RED CROSS BRANCH AT NORTHWEST SCHOOL.

Great interest in Red Cross work has been manifested at the Northwest School of Agriculture on the part of both faculty members and students. Early in the summer a generous sum of money was raised for the Red Cross at this school. In order to have a regular time when all could get together for work, and in order to facilitate the problem of getting supplies, it was thought best to organize an auxiliary on the campus, to be affiliated with the Red Cross Chapter of Crookston. At a meeting held for that purpose, the following officers were unanimously elected: Mrs. A. M. Foker, president; Mrs. Anna F. Haig, vice president; Mrs. T. M. McCall, secretary; and Mrs.

C. G. Selvig, treasurer. The students are divided into two groups, with Miss Grace Sherwood and Miss Alice Glise as advisors for the groups. By the beginning of the new year every person connected with the Northwest School of Agriculture will be a member of the National Red Cross Society. We believe in the motto, "Be a member seeker—not a member sought."

PATRIOTIC DAY AT NORTHWEST SCHOOL.

The patriotic day that was held at the Northwest School of Agriculture, December 19, will leave a lasting impression upon all those who participated in it. As the recent holiday season approached, people felt more and more that to observe Christmas in the right way this year would be one means of showing patriotism. The real Christmas spirit has always been one of service, and it is service that our country is now requiring of us. The patriotism that is expressed in terms of service is therefore the best Christmas observance that it is possible for one to show. Patriotic service was the underlying idea that inspired the patriotic day observed at the Northwest School, and every talk given throughout the program of the day centered around that idea.

At 5:30, students, faculty, and representative alumni gathered in the dining hall for a "get-together" dinner. Superintendent Selvig introduced the speakers. The four class presidents explained the purpose of the gathering. Clayton Walker, for the Freshmen, showed the need for individual effort on the part of every student in the war that the United States is engaged in. He explained that the student army is best helping the government by training and educating itself. Albin Johnson, for the Juniors, showed that a large part of the ammunition for the allied armies in the present war is supplied by the American farmer. He said that we need educated farmers now, more than we ever needed them before. Oscar Samuelson, for the Seniors, amplified the same idea by showing the present imperative need for increased food production in the United States.

The United States is now the commissary department for almost the whole world. We must have educated farmers to supply the world with food. No one but a scientific farmer can increase production on less acreage. Charles Auburg, for the Advanced class, brought out clearly that efficient service of any kind in time of war or time of peace, depends absolutely on

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THE Northwest Monthly

Issued Monthly by

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF
AGRICULTURE

C. G. SELVIG, Superintendent

OFFICE

Northwest Experiment Station,
Crookston, Minnesota

A monthly publication in the interest of agricultural education and home training for Northwestern Minnesota.

PLANS FOR 1918 CROP PRODUCTION DISCUSSED INCREASE IN LIVE STOCK NEEDED.

The Red River Valley Development association held a business meeting in the Crookston Commercial Club rooms Tuesday evening, December 11, and all day December 12. Representatives from the various Red River Valley counties were present and took prominent parts in the discussions. This meeting was called primarily with the object in view of discussing different phases for greater production of the 1918 crop and live stock situation. The greatest need for the coming crop season of 1918 and throughout the period of the war, is to have all agencies well organized for increased food production, and for a proper distribution of farm products.

Those present at this meeting were more impressed than ever before that cooperative efforts are needed by farmers and all business organizations for the crop campaign of 1918.

The war draft will materially effect the labor situation in the harvest season of 1918. To have a proper distribution of all available labor will require the organization of a county labor bureau, which should be in a position to know the needs of a county. Such a bureau would become the center where men seeking work in a county could immediately be located with farmers.

The world shortage of live stock is a need that must be met as far as possible on Red River Valley farms. Valley farms are in need of more live stock not only from a standpoint of greater farm production, but also to supply needs from a war measure standpoint.

Conservation of machinery will be needed to a greater extent this year than ever before. The demands of the government for war supplies is consuming raw materials that formerly were used in the manufacturing of new machinery. To meet the government needs is taxing implement manufacturers to the extent that the making of new machinery is taking second place. The great increase in cost of new machinery will make a direct appeal to farmers to retain the old machinery that under ordinary conditions would be discarded. The Red River Valley Development association has earnestly urged all implement manufacturers to have dealers keep on hand a plentiful supply of repairs.

The lecture given by Prof. H. L. Bolley of the North Dakota Agricultural College on "Cereal Rusts" put squarely before the members of the association the need of destroying the barberry bush which is the host plant for one stage of grain rusts. To destroy all barberry plants would prevent the damage done by rusts.

Mr. A. H. Turriffin of the Federal Land Bank gave a very interesting discussion of the working of the new system of federal farm loans. The great need of farmers is more capital. Advantage can be taken of this federal farm loan act by forming a farm loan association as provided for by the farm loan act. Many communities already have organized loan associations.

Briefly, these are only a few of the subjects that came up for discussion at the meeting. The attendance was not large, but the earnestness shown made up in a great measure for the lack in numbers. Those in attendance from other counties necessarily had to make some personal sacrifice. Much credit must be given to those coming from a distance, who realize that to become better qualified to handle the great war issues of farm production, means an attendance at such gatherings in order to gather useful knowledge at first hand.

A brief synopsis of the addresses given will be printed and distributed throughout the valley counties in bulletin form.

Two committees were appointed at the meeting to carry on special work. A committee consisting of C. G. Selvig, A. D. Stephens, and a third member to be selected by them, was appointed to present to the proper department of national government the barberry eradication resolutions and to take such further action as might be deemed expedient and necessary to secure action by the government regarding the barberry.

Messrs. Stephens and Selvig will leave for Washington early in January. It is planned to secure the cooperation of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa with Minnesota in support of this resolution.

Another committee consisting of Martin O'Brien, chairman, James Cumming, and Walter Stone was appointed to present the matter of the conservation of farm machinery. It was pointed out that farm machinery repairs are not now being handled in such a way as to be available readily and reasonably for all farmers. In furtherance of this work, Mr. O'Brien presented a resolution at the Polk County Farm Bureau meeting urging action by the Minnesota Public Safety Commission to make machinery repairs available at reasonable figures.

The Northwest Monthly will follow up the activities of these committees as both are regarded as of utmost importance to northwestern Minnesota's agricultural interests.

JUNIOR SHORT COURSE.

April 1-6, 1918.

Posters announcing the Eighth Annual Junior Short Course have been prepared and are being sent to all the rural schools in northwestern Minnesota. The Junior Short course is attracting a larger number each year. It is becoming known as one of the most interesting events that a country boy

or girl may participate in. Among the features of the week will be a splendid series of moving picture films including the "Poor Little Rich Girl" and "Cinderella" by Mary Pickford; "Bab's Matinee Idol" by Marguerite Clark; and "Wild and Woolly" by Douglas Fairbanks. These are interesting and elevating, and will prove a delight to every boy and girl who attends.

COUNTY FARM BUREAUS.

County Farm Bureaus have been organized in several of the northwestern Minnesota counties. As the names of the officers are received, the Northwest Monthly will publish them, as this movement is of the greatest importance to the agricultural interests of this section of the state.

Clay County.

Clay county has had a farm bureau for a number of years. At the present time A. C. O'Banion is the county agent.

Kittson County.

The Kittson County Farm Bureau association was organized last August 4 with a membership of 434. The officers are: President, W. H. Johnson, Hallock; 1st vice president, Wm. Ash, St. Vincent; 2nd vice president, Ludwig Peterson, Lancaster; 3rd vice president, Hans Lindberg, Kennedy; 4th vice president, Dave Dagen, Donaldson; 5th vice president, Ed. Peterson, Drayton, N. Dak., and secretary-treasurer, Martin Boraas, Hallock.

Other members of the executive committee are: Cooperative Elevators and Seed, J. E. Sundberg, Kennedy; Creameries, B. P. Thorsell, Bronson; Farmers' Clubs, D. A. Horton, Hallock; Live Stock Shipping association, Victor Holmquist, Hallock; Stock, John Lohr, Northcote; Schools, G. C. Lee, Halma; Commercial Clubs, C. J. Forsberg, Karlstad, and County Public Safety Commission, J. D. Henry, Hallock.

Pennington County.

The Pennington County Farm Bureau association was organized December 20 with the following officers: Ed. Aubol, president; Hans Anton, vice president; and Paul Engestad, secretary-treasurer. The following were chosen directors: J. B. Conner, Fred Bierbauer, H. C. Wolson, J. H. Hay, Robert McGinn, V. C. Noper, Morgan Vaughn, Emil Larson, and John L. Larson.

Polk County.

A meeting was held at Crookston on December 19 for the purpose of organizing the Polk County Farm Bureau. Following are the officers and executive committee elected: President E. G. Eklund, Fosston; 1st vice president, Carl Berg, Erskine; 2nd vice president, D. B. Ferguson, Mallory; secretary, John Perry, Crookston; and treasurer, O. K. Berget, Crookston.

Representing: County commissioners, J. D. McPhee, Crookston; N. W. School of Agriculture, C. G. Selvig, Crookston; county schools, N. A. Thorson, county superintendent, Crookston; Polk county fair, Lawrence Floan, Melvin; N. W. Minnesota fair, represented by the secretary; Commercial club, Joseph Ball, Crookston; live stock breeders and shippers, J. B. Goodwin, Angus; cooperative creameries, A. B. Stensgard, McIntosh; and county federation of farmers' clubs, John Clementson, Erskine.

FARM ENGINEERING COURSES.

Great interest is being taken in the farm engineering courses which are offered during the winter term at the Northwest School of Agriculture. Professor A. M. Foker is at the head of this department, and will be assisted by H. L. Joiner and George Showers, both of whom are graduates of the power machinery course of the North Dakota Agricultural College. Mr. Joiner entered upon his second year's work here last October while Mr. Showers began his work January first.

The course in gasoline and auto engineering is of special interest to a great many of the students of the school. Special equipment is necessary for this work. To meet this need, Superintendent Selvig has secured tractors and gasoline engines from several firms that are cooperating with the school by loaning the motors. The M. Rumley Company will furnish a 15-30 tractor; the J. I. Case Threshing Machine company, a tractor; and the Hart Parr company, a "Little Devil" tractor as soon as it comes into stock. The Emerson-Branthingham company have signified their intention to cooperate with the school and similar cooperation is expected from the International Harvester company. The Minnesota Moline Plow company have advised the school that they will try to make arrangements so that a tractor manufactured by them may be available for demonstration purposes.

The Northwest School is in possession of an Avery tractor and also has a Bull tractor which can be used.

In addition, several gasoline and kerosene burning engines will be on hand for actual use in demonstration.

In the auto engineering department, the students will get actual practice in over-hauling at least three different kinds of automobiles.

The most urgent need of this department is for additional space and plans are under way to provide this before the opening of the next school year. With hundreds and even thousands of gasoline engines, automobiles and tractors in use on farms of northwestern Minnesota, this branch of agricultural engineering is annually assuming greater importance. In addition, practical farm carpentry, farm blacksmithing, mechanical drawing, drainage work and farm machinery practicums occupy the attention of the students during the freshmen and junior years. Ready skill is secured which proves of inestimable value to the farmer. In this way the Northwest School furnishes a training which means dollars and cents in the actual every-day activities of the farm.

FARM CROPS AND LIVE STOCK SHOW.

February 11-15, 1918.

Plans are under way to make the Seventh Annual Farm Crops Show and the Second Annual Live Stock show excel any previous exhibition. The Minnesota Red River Valley Development Association will furnish prizes which will be announced in the premium list which is to be issued early in January. The members of the Red River Valley

Live Stock Breeders' association are taking a special interest in the live stock exhibit. There have been several inquiries received by Secretary William Dietrich of this association indicating a wide spread interest in this annual exhibition. While the new building which was proposed last year has not been constructed, it is hoped that plans may be worked out in the near future which will result in the construction of an adequate exhibition building available for use of the live stock show.

PLANS FOR A FARMERS' EXCHANGE IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY.

Farmers of the Red River Valley are constantly in the market, either with a surplus of seed grain and breeding stock for sale, or as buyers looking for some such products. Sometimes the surplus for sale does not warrant the expense of advertising in the regular way or, as it more often happens, the farmer neglects to give any time or thought to advertising. With some easy means for exchange of products, the farmer who has and the farmer who wants can be brought together and a transaction made that will be of material benefit for each.

This article outlines briefly an exchange plan that can be established through the farmers' clubs of the valley. At a regular meeting of the club, the members can fill out lists (on forms which will be furnished) of their wants and products for sale. These lists should be corrected monthly. A copy of the club list may be sent to the Northwest School of Agriculture, which in turn will make up a complete list for the valley. This larger list will be sent to all club secretaries in the valley. In this way it is hoped that a well established exchange plan can be worked out.

The success of this plan rests with the individual farmer whose hearty cooperation with the officers of the farmers' club is urged. To make this plan a success, prompt business methods are necessary on the part of the club members and especially the club secretary. An exchange list of this kind cannot carry with it any guarantee against misrepresentation, nor is there any desire to boost the products of any particular farmer. The final and only purpose of such a list is to bring buyer and seller together and between these two individuals the transaction is to be made.

The larger the list of farmers wanting to purchase and of farmers having products for sale, the better will be the chance for both classes to make an exchange. The home trade among farmers needs to be encouraged; it will mean a saving in time and expense over products received at a distance, besides supplying products that are already adapted to the section.

REMEMBER THE WEEK, FEBRUARY 11-15, 1918, AND PLAN TO COME. ALUMNI DAY, FEB. 14.

PATRIOTIC DAY AT NORTHWEST SCHOOL.

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intelligence and brains. The world is appealing to the United States to save democracy. The United States with all her wealth and all her population cannot do this unless she can depend on intelligent and educated citizens.

Each of the class presidents expressed the resolve of his class to bring back more students than ever before, after Christmas. In this way the efficiency and strength of the United States armies will be increased. In this way, the students of the Northwest School of Agriculture will be expressing their patriotism in terms of service.

The following resolutions, prepared and unanimously adopted by the Juniors, were presented:

"Whereas, Our country is at war with a foreign foe; whereas, men are sacrificing their lives that our nation may win; whereas, the United States has need of the services of every citizen; whereas, the products of the farms are of prime importance; we, the Juniors of the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minnesota, resolve

"That we will not hamper the government in thought, word or deed.

"That we will do everything in our power to further the interests of the United States in this war;

"That we pledge ourselves to help increase the production of farm products this coming year;

"That we pledge ourselves to help conserve food and eliminate waste;

"That we, each and severally, agree to influence at least one new student to attend the Northwest School of Agriculture after Christmas; and

"That we submit a set of these resolutions to Superintendent C. G. Selvig as a guarantee of cooperation with him and the institution."

Mr. Paul Engelstad, an alumnus of 1915, told in a vivid and entertaining way of the help this school had been to him. Mr. William Cumming, '12, made a strong and effective plea to the Freshmen to remain in school three years. If all the Freshmen enrolled this year could all graduate in 1920, how much greater would be the force of intelligent farmers to whom the world is now looking for aid. Mr. Conrad Clementson, the president of the Alumni association, emphasized the greatest need of the present time—unselfishness. We must show unselfishness in our personal demands, and we must show unselfishness in our spirit of service.

Mr. Martin O'Brien of Crookston closed the program with a splendid address. Forcefully and directly he showed the privileges we enjoy as American citizens. For such privileges we should be willing to make the supreme sacrifice whatever it may be. We must be animated by the idea that our government must win this war. The national interest must be first in the mind of each American; personal interests must be second. Our slogan must be save, serve and sacrifice.

The dinner was followed by a short public speaking program in the auditorium given by the Freshmen. The practical value of public speaking work is admirably demonstrated by the fact that Freshmen students who have

never been on a platform before can speak easily and effectively before a large audience. The numbers were all given exceptionally well. The subject of the program was Christmas. The speakers were as follows:

Introductory Remarks.....

.....Milton Warner, leader

The Old Time Christmas.....

.....Louise Edman

The Story of Good King Wencelas.....

.....Roy Younggren

What Christmas Should Mean to Us

This Year.....Walter Sprung

The Demonstration School continued the Christmas program with several delightful songs, games, and recitations by the little folks, who are always received with enthusiastic appreciation.

The long anticipated Song Contest was the closing event of the day. Each class practiced for a month under the direction of one of their own members and memorized several patriotic songs. On the evening of December 19, each class sang in public under the direction of their leader. The spirit with which they sang and the ability shown by the various leaders was admirable. No more worthy effort could be put forth than such a one, which inspires students to sing for pure love of it, and which develops in them, initiative and real skill. The leaders and accompanists were as follows: I. Freshmen: Archie Lee, leader; Louise Edman, accompanist. II. Juniors: Henry Gibson, leader; Lettie Rubert, accompanist. III. Seniors: Bernard Moses, leader; Florence Haenke, accompanist.

The contest was judged by Miss Frances Walker, supervisor of music in public schools, Crookston; Mr. O. W. Peterson, director of Viking Chorus, Crookston; and Miss Blanche Leigh, supervisor of music in public schools, Grand Forks, North Dakota, and the silver cup awarded to the Seniors by Superintendent Selvig amid the congratulatory applause of the rival classes who showed a good sportsmanship that was only equalled by their praiseworthy efforts in the contest.

NOTES FROM ALUMNI.

Oscar J. Lund, '16, writes that while he is on the draft rolls he has not yet been called, so his address is still at Twin Valley. He is still engaged in bean raising although, unfortunately, the frost killed about all he had last fall. He is director of the Twin Valley band. Two farmers clubs in the vicinity of Twin Valley have organized bands which help very much to make their club programs very interesting.

Thorval Tunheim, '16, is a freshman at the Minnesota Agricultural College at St. Anthony Park. He states that he finds it necessary to burn some midnight oil in order to meet the demands of the more ambitious professors at the college. He has secured a position in the Division of Agronomy and Farm Management, where he will work with Professor Boss. His experience as assistant in the agronomy department of the Northwest Experiment Station will prove of value to him in his new work.

William S. Ash, '16, St. Vincent, states that he is very much pleased with the Northwest Monthly and requests that copies be sent to a number of his friends and neighbors. This is real cooperation with your Alma Mater.

William will attend the Alumni reunion on February 14, and his fellow classmates will be glad to see him.

Alfred Ronningen, of Nielsville, who attended school during 15-16, states that his brother, Sam, who attended here 1913-15, has been drafted and will go to Camp Dodge with the next quota. He sent in a fine list of names to receive copies of "Around the Campus."

Peter Ness, '17, writes from Cass Lake that the Northwest Monthly is like a visit from a friend.

The alumni can help make the Northwest Monthly of the greatest interest if they will send in notes frequently. Decide to spend an evening very soon doing this as information regarding you will be of interest to all of your former school mates.

Conrad Clementson, '15, Erskine; William Cumming, '12, Mallory; and Paul Engelstad, '16, Thief River Falls, were at the school on December 19 and took part in the patriotic day program. The addresses that they gave were of high order, and there rose in the breasts of the members of the faculty and students a feeling of pride to think that these fine young men were graduates of the Northwest School.

Walter Sheridan, '17, has written very interestingly regarding camp life at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri. It is hoped to include one of his letters in one of the next issues of the Northwest Monthly. A post card dated December 18, states that his company was leaving for Camp Joseph Johnston, Jacksonville, Florida, on that day.

Robert Erlandson of Kennedy was at the Station recently, when sow thistle eradication was discussed.

SOW THISTLE.

O. M. Kiser.

The sow thistle menace of the Red River Valley is a problem that threatens the future of our Northwestern Minnesota farms. Success in crop management demands a reduction of the trouble from weeds to a minimum. Each year the sow thistle is becoming more firmly established on Northwestern Minnesota farms, and is spreading rapidly to areas that before have been uninfested. The problem of sow thistle control is not for the individual farmer alone, but collectively for all farmers throughout the valley. This is an issue of general public interest not only that increased production may be expected, but also that the vast areas of unimproved land may be more of an attraction to a prospective farmer. An attraction must carry with it prospects that the future will mean ample reward for labor expended. If effective means for the control of this pest are not forthcoming the "abandoned farm" of the Red River Valley will be an altogether too common term. This has a direct application to land values and the future prosperity of agricultural interests throughout the valley.

The Northwest Experiment Station has urged all to recognize that the sow thistle is at present the biggest farm management problem in the valley. Farmers and business men throughout the valley must be aroused to the seriousness of this pest and urged to lend their support for effective means of control. Our present state weed laws do not supply sufficient means for the control of the sow thistle.

The complete eradication of the sow thistle in the Red River Valley is a task that is now beyond human power. The remedy for the sow thistle on individual farms is both in eradication and control. The sow thistle belongs to that class of weeds that perpetuates itself by means of seeds and underground root stalks. To prevent the plant from seeding is an easy means of control but thoroughly to eradicate the pest from the farms means that these underground root stalks must be cleaned out. The underground root stalks are dependent on the green leaves above ground to supply food. To prevent these leaves from forming will in time starve the underground root stalk. On smaller areas this can be effectively done by various kinds of covering. On larger areas as is common with the sow thistle in the Red River Valley, bare summerfallow has proved to be the only effective means of controlling this weed.

The Manitoba Experiment Station after several years of experience with the sow thistle is now practicing the summerfallow method throughout the province as the best means for control. To summerfallow is a practice not unknown by farmers of northwestern Minnesota. This practice is now followed to a great extent by individual farmers.

To make summer fallowing effective, this operation must be recognized as a part of the regular crop rotation plan. Each year a definite area of the farm must be under summerfallow. After a certain period of years the entire area of plow land will then have been summerfallowed. Once over the farm the summerfallow cycle is again repeated in the same regular order. The area of land that can be summerfallowed will depend on the horse power of the farm. To take too large an area will mean that new growth is formed more quickly than it can be kept down. The area that is summerfallowed each year will determine the number of years for the summerfallow rotation.

The summerfallow plan carries with it the idea of enlisting the support of every farmer throughout the valley. This plan will begin with the season of 1918, and be continued through the coming years by all farmers. Definite results cannot be expected in one year; it will, perhaps, take three or more years before the larger returns come. Once any gain in control is produced, there should be no let up in this method of summerfallow, as the sow thistle will easily and quickly establish itself on the farm.

FACULTY ENTERTAINS.

The December monthly evening meeting of the Northwest School faculty partly took on the nature of a social occasion. The teachers of the Crookston public schools, Polk county superintendent, and Crookston Business college together with members of the Crookston school board were invited guests. The professional feature of the occasion was a lecture by Dean Joseph Kennedy of the College of Education, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, on the subject, "The Spirit of the Teacher." The address was extremely interesting and practical as Dean Kennedy's talks always are. It was a genuine inspiration and greatly enjoyed by all.