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CHAS. BERTHOLD, Prop.

COUNTY AGENT NOTES.

Canadian Thistles

Canadian Thistles are fast becoming one of the worst weed pests on the Washington County farms, and unless something is done to stop their spread or hold them in check, large areas, as in some of the Eastern States, will be abandoned as far as farming is concerned and turned over to the thistles. There are now areas which are so thickly seeded that only 50 per cent crops are ob-

tained.

The reason for the seriousness of this weed and at the same time the cause for its difficult eradication, is that the plant not only spreads by seed, but also bears "creeping underground stems which being nourished by the stem and leaves above ground sometimes travels for long distance beneath the surface and sends up new plants at intervals as they go."

Treatment For Large Areas

Where very abundant and over a large area the thistles can proba-



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F. H. JOHNSON, Special Agent, Standard Oil Co.,
BEAVERTON, OREGON

bly be best controlled by the bare fallow method. Ferd Groner and Thos. Carmichael have found this method very satisfactory. Mr. Carmichael states that he eradicated the thistles in one season but had to keep continually at it. Plow the land as the thistles are about to bloom, just deeply enough to turn over the root mat. The land should then be harrowed, preferably with a spring-tooth, care being taken not to drag the root to uninfested areas. Cultivation must then be continued throughout the growing season. Usually it is a good plan to follow with a heavy smother crop, as oats and vetch. This crop may be harvested early, the ground plowed, and planted the second season to a cultivated crop. This crop should be cleanly cultivated never allowing the thistles to appear.

Treatment For Small Patches

Small patches may be eradicated

by grubbing, thus gradually exhausting the stored food supply in the roots, and killing the plant. Spraying the cut portion of the plant with a concentrated salt solution, sodium arsenite or gasoline, are other methods that are in use. Covering with tarred paper is also a method that is used for small areas.

N. C. JAMIESON,
County Agent.

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