

CAN GET RID OF BURDOCK

Pest is Hard to Kill, but One Farmer Tells of Finding the Plant's Vulnerable Spot.

A weed pest of wide distribution, particularly obnoxious because of its numerous prickly burrs, is the burdock. Cutting it down doesn't do any good, for burdock develops a root system possessing wonderful vital tenacity, and promptly "comes up" again.

Like the well-known hero of antiquity whose only vulnerable spot was on his heel, the charmed life which the burdock seems to bear really is only a semblance. The burdock has its vulnerable spot, but few know where it is.

An eastern farmer, living in a rural district where the worthless burdock had brazenly lived its parasitic life for years, happened on to the burdock's weakness—and burdock ceased straightway to be a bad pest on that farm.

This farmer cut, using a bush scythe, the burdocks infesting a fence corner. They were flourishing, arrogant burdocks—the kind that grew as tall as a man nearly and for a brief period in the summer, when the green burrs make elegant hats and cushions, are a delight to the children.

This farmer cut them all down with a scythe. A few hours later—it was in hot, dry weather—it occurred to him to try to pull up the roots. Thus he stumbled on the peculiar weakness of the burdock.

It has a long tap root which shrinks when the plant is first cut. If the plants have been cut off about four

inches above the ground, leaving a hill which can be readily grasped, and if the pulling is attended to while the tap root is still in the shrunken state, it is possible to pull the tap root up almost to its bottommost end.

RACIAL VIGOR WILL RETURN

English Writer of Opinion That Matter May Safely Be Left to Mother Nature.

Many writers have laid stress upon the fact that Europe, in losing the flower of its youth upon the battlefield, has left only the least fit and most unhealthy to become the progenitors of future races. And they cite the effect of the Napoleonic wars on the physique and stamina of the French.

In answer to these pessimists the scientific editor of the Illustrated London News writes:

"Against this it may be urged that the recuperative power of nature soon reasserts itself, and no one who has watched year by year up to 1914 (as did the present writer) the yearly reviews on July 14 could doubt that, at the outbreak of the present war, the Frenchmen had more than recovered the tall stature and the high muscular and nervous energy of his forefathers. While, therefore, we must expect a certain falling off in the physique of the children born between, say, 1914 and thirty years hence, we may be fairly confident that, given the maintenance of the present standard of living and the absence of any great epidemic, at the end of that time the English race

will return to its prewar standard of physical fitness."

Just Occurred to Her.

A child's prayer has long been celebrated in song and story. Prayers from the youthful lips of faith have ever appealed to mankind. There are few so hardened as not to be moved by such prayers, or remember with awe their own lisping of "Now I lay me down to sleep."

Children also, in their innocence, sometimes say prayers which are not without their humorous side, and these, too, have been handed down to posterity. In this latter class belongs the following true account of the prayer of a little girl who lives just on the other side of the District line in Maryland.

Little Lois was completing her evening prayer at her mother's knee.

"Amen," finished Lois, and then, without a pause:

"Mamma, has the Lord got a bald head like daddy?"—Washington Star.

Oregon will not get any captured German field guns or other confiscated war equipment until congress passes an act providing for the distribution of this class of material, according to a telegram received at the executive offices from P. C. Harris of the adjutant-general's office at Washington. One bill is now before congress, however, which, if passed, will allow Oregon a number of guns of 77 caliber and above.

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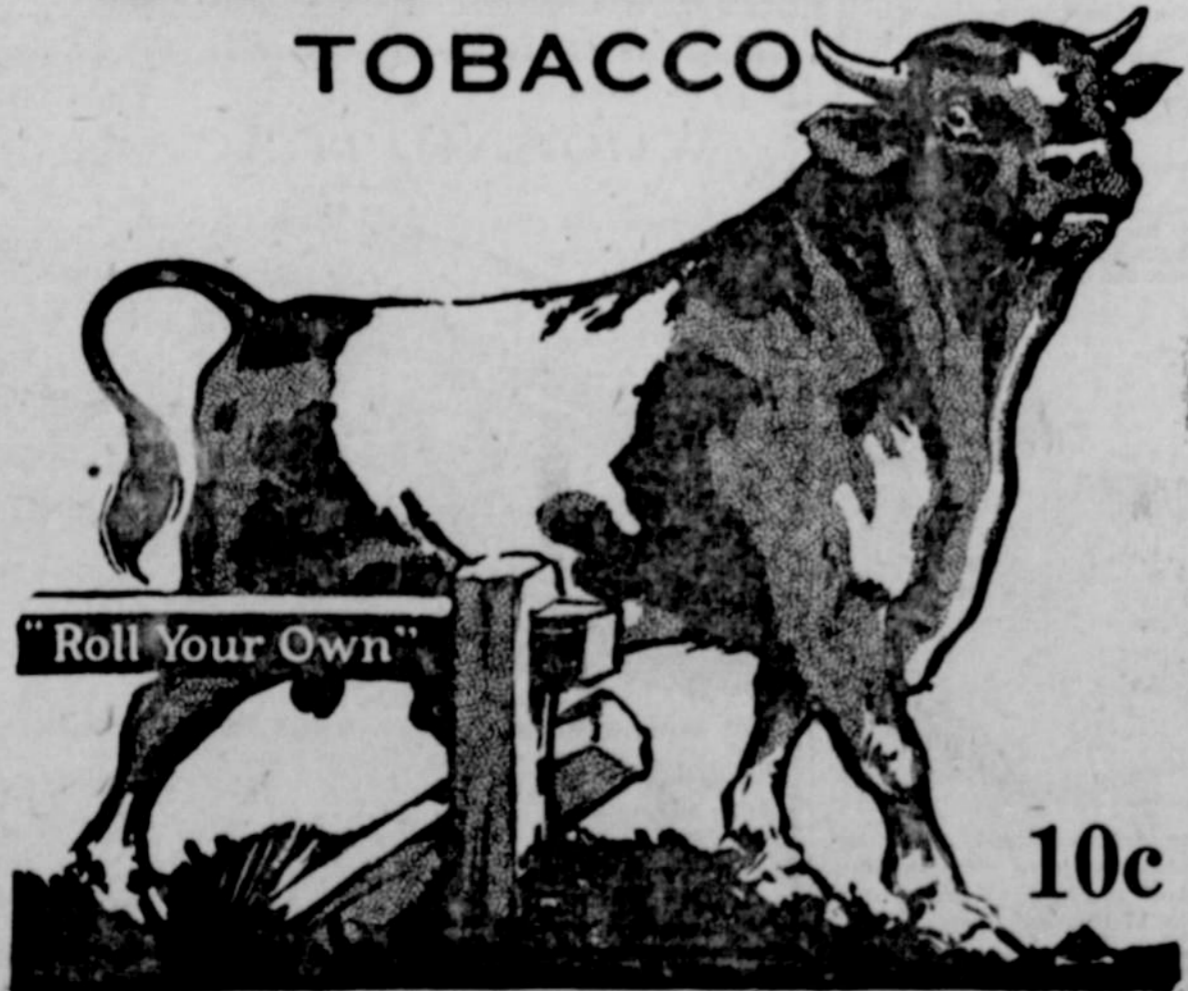
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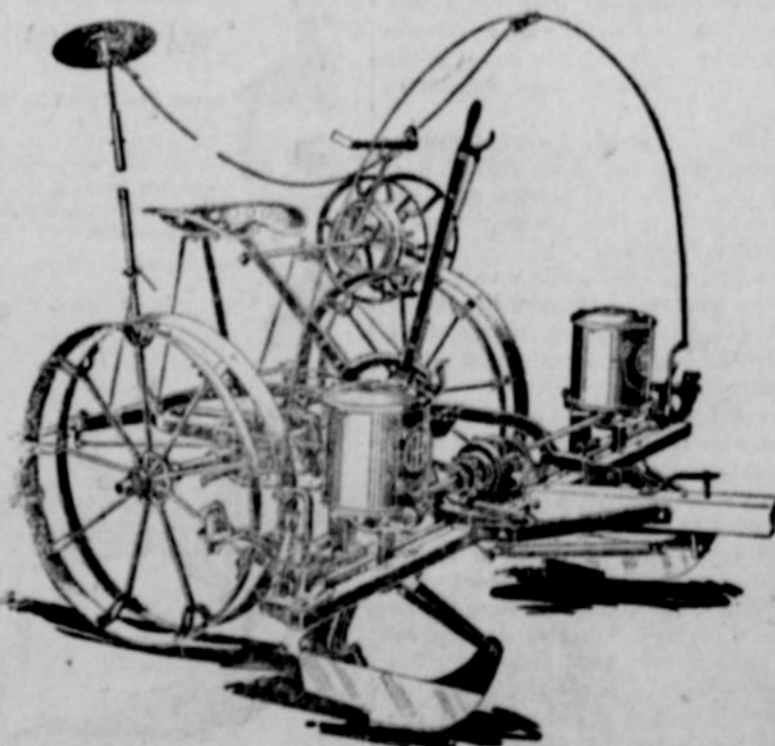
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