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Pamphlets

MONTANA AGRICULTURAL

EXPERIMENT STATION

...OF...

THE MONTANA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,

WEEDS OF MONTANA.

Blankinship

Bozeman, Montana, June, 1901.

1901.
The Avant Courier Publishing Co.,
Bozeman, Montana.

tablished, and this inspector shall have similar powers to road supervisors to call for a certain amount of aid from each farmer to be used in the common interest of stamping out these pests from infected localities, or to compel individuals to clear their lands of such pests.

It would thus be possible to hold one man responsible for keeping down these noxious weeds, while now the responsibility is fixed upon no one and the interests involved are certainly as great, if not greater, than in the maintenance of a good road system. It should also be made the duty of the road supervisors to keep the weeds cut or plowed under along the different public highways within their jurisdiction. Unless some effort of this kind is soon made, the labor of the farmer will be greatly increased.

THE WEED LAW NOW IN FORCE IN MONTANA.

[PENAL CODE, APPROVED MARCH 18, 1895.]

“§1197. Be it enacted that the weeds known as the Canada thistle, the Scotch bull thistle and the Russian thistle are hereby declared to be a common nuisance for all the purposes of this Act.

§1198. Any person or persons owning any lands within this State, or occupying or having control of any lands, whether within the plat of towns, villages or cities, or otherwise, within this State, knowingly permitting or suffering any Canada, Scotch bull or Russian thistle or thistles to go to seed upon any land or lands thus owned, occupied or under control of such person or persons shall be deemed guilty of supporting and maintaining a common nuisance, and upon conviction thereof in any court of competent jurisdiction, of the offense, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty nor less than five dollars.

§1199. In case any person or persons, railroad or other corporation, owning or occupying any lands within this State, under his or her or their control, as the case may be, shall refuse or neg-

lect to destroy any Canada, Scotch bull or Russian thistle or thistles growing or standing upon any land or lands so owned, occupied or controlled, on or before the fifteenth day of August, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners, road supervisors, or other person or persons having control of the public highways, streets or alleys where any such thistle or thistles may be found growing or standing, to immediately destroy or cause the same to be destroyed, and pay therefor at the same rate that is paid for road labor; and every supervisor or other person hereinbefore authorized to destroy said thistles shall keep a correct account of all moneys paid out for that purpose, and charge the same to the person or persons or corporation owning, occupying or controlling the land or lands upon which such thistle or thistles were destroyed, and the person or persons or corporation owning, occupying or having control of such lands shall be liable in a civil action for the amount so charged against them and costs of suit;

Provided that if any supervisor or other person having, under authority of this Act, destroyed any of the said thistles, and is unable to find the owner of the land, or is unable to collect such money, the same shall be paid by the authorities of the town, village, city or county where such thistles were destroyed; *and provided further*, that in case any railroad company becomes chargeable under the provisions of this Section, the supervisors of the township where same has become chargeable may certify to the same to the county attorney of their county, whose duty it shall be to bring and prosecute a civil action against the railroad company for the amount so charged and costs of suit aforesaid.

§1200. It is hereby made the duty of every person having knowledge of any Canada, Scotch bull and Russian thistle or thistles growing or standing upon the lands of another to immediately destroy the same, or give the person owning or occupying such lands immediate notice thereof.”