

nor do they ever think, of destroying a plant until it has become a curse. I have recollections of my father on one of his journeys to Christchurch with his horse and dray saw a couple of Scotch Thistles growing in the Selwyn river bed. Not having anything with him with which to destroy them, He went back another day with a spade (a matter of two miles) and cut the roots up. But it was only some few years later when the place (particularly the swampy portions) was completely overgrown, and an utter impossibility to get through.

It was taken later as one of those evils that had to be put up with, and was propagated from the seed, and the wind carried this in every direction, and could often be seen almost like falling snow. It was more of a nuisance however when the plants died down, and the dead leaves and dried flowers was often a laying on the ground. Hence very often the labour of cutting the plants down during the flowering stage. A very much worse kind ^{California} however appeared in later years, and even to day is one of the biggest curses of the land especially if the land is used for agricultural purposes or the growing of root crops. This is such a familiar plant, that there is no need to describe it, beyond saying that it is a most ill, vile & evil plant, creeping underneath and

also disseminating its wickedness above. It was not until towards the end of last century, or in the 90^s that it was found every where, & no amount of cutting would destroy it. I have heard of stacks of straw being built over it in the endeavour to kill, but the plant would force its way through. Another vile plant also came, to swell the curses that was already on the land. That was and is the ragwort. I don't know where it came from. Then there was the "dock", which confined itself to the ground & both developed from seed and also from broken roots. This is mostly confined to the heavier lands, and is not by any means very bad in the northern portions of New Zealand. It was a most troublesome plant amongst the wheat crops, and unless pulled up or destroyed in its seeding stage, ~~was~~ or while the wheat or other cereals were growing, was a great source of annoyance when the cereal crops were being threshed. The plant itself very often lived to a good old age. Who? more especially in the South Island is not acquainted with such weeds as "hog weed" "fat-hen" "wild ivy", and wild tares, who was it that brought to this country the wild turnip or "Charlock". Like the ordinary