

FARMERS, BEWARE OF TUMBLEWEED

Russian Thistle Takes Up Its
Abode in Parts of
Utah.

SHOULD BE EXTERMINATED.

Class in Nature Study at State Univer-
sity Makes Special Study and Re-
port on This Troublesome Weed.

A very obnoxious plant seems to have
gained a foothold in the soil of various
parts of this state. At the normal school
of the University of Utah, the classes
in nature study began this fall with a
study of the various weeds that infest
the fields, the dooryards, and also the
open spaces of unclaimed land.

STUDENTS FOUND IT.

When the division of pigweeds and
sidewalks was reached, the professor
asked the students to keep a lookout
for a certain weed troublesome in many
parts of the country, and known as the
Russian thistle, or tumbleweed. The
plant was described to the students,
and presently from various localities
specimens of a suspicious plant were
brought in, which were pronounced to
be the dreaded thistle, or tumbleweed
of the Russian steppes. The true na-
ture of this species soon became mani-
fest. In the course of two weeks the
plant began to ripen. The soft, sharp-
pointed leaves became stiff and rigid
and the specimens now brittle all over
the dried stages of growth, the plant
itself being pulled up by the roots, at
the time of maturity, it can hardly be
seen by the naked hand on account
of its leaves now stiffened into verti-
cal spikes. This weed is an illustration

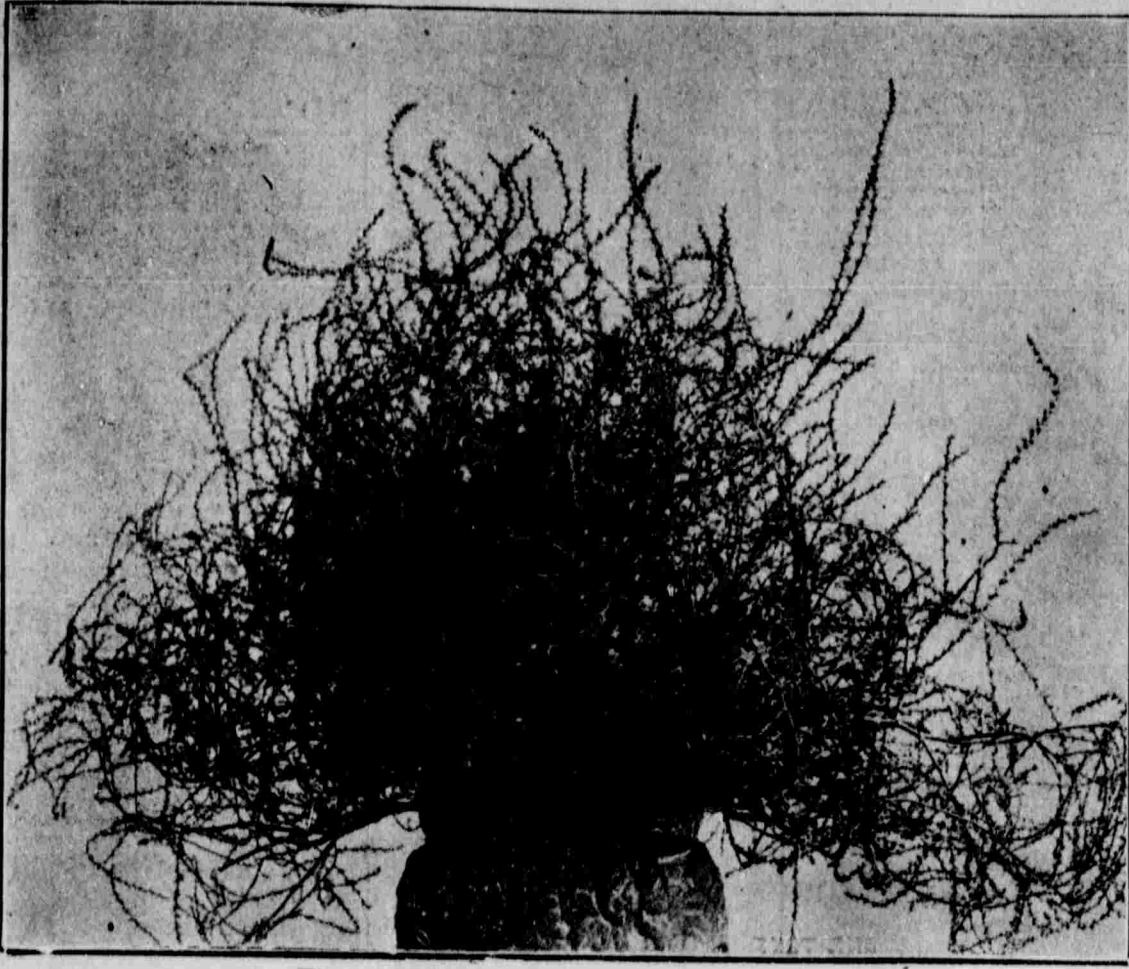


Photo by Johnson.

PICTURE OF FULL GROWN THISTLE.

Discovered on the Bench Near the University of Utah, and Specially Photographed for This Article of the Des-
eret News.

weed first appeared in this country.
At that time a colony of immigrants
came over from southern Russia and
located in South Dakota. They
brought with them a small quantity
of flax seed, and sowed it in the soil
of their new home. When it came
up, it was somewhat mixed with a

The Russian tumbleweed (Salsola
kali) is of a different species from
our own tumbleweeds, such as the
white pigweed known as amarantus
alba. The Russian thistle begins to
grow as a simple and inoffensive plant
with slender and succulent leaves and
branches. As the plant grows older

entire plant should make certain the
identity of the Russian weed to the
careful observer. At this season the
proper way to destroy the plants is
to burn them. Earlier in the season
they can be pulled or hoed up. Soon
the dry seed pods will begin to open
and there will be the menace of a



TOP BRANCHES OF NATIVE PIG WEED.
An Airplex Most Nearly Resembling Russian Thistle—Two-Thirds Natural
Size—Drawn From Nature by Pupils of Training School.

of an old proverb in a new form—de-
stroy the evil in its incipency and the
task is light enough; but let it fully de-
velop, and its eradication is difficult or
even impossible.

A PRESENT PROBLEM.

The situation is now before the farm-
ers of Utah and the land owners every-
where. This plant is attaining a foot-
hold in Utah, and it should be re-
solutely eradicated. Prof. Paul, director
of the nature work at the university,
says that the plant has been in Utah
only a few years, the first specimen,
apparently, that was noticed by any-
one here having been found by Dr. Or-
son Howard, curator of the university
museum, about three years ago. At
that time, the doctor found one of the
plants in the vicinity of Fort Douglas.
He was then entertained that the
weed would not find our soil and cli-
mate congenial to its spread and de-
velopment. But the result is otherwise;
today the plant is reported at many
places, especially along the railroad
tracks. Principal McKnight has ob-
served it in southern Utah; Prof. Paul
has found it in Idaho; and students
bring daily to the nature class branches
of it from various parts of the east
and west in this city. The plant appears
to be spreading rapidly, and requires
the careful work of all those who dis-
cern it, to rid the soil of a pest that
once established usurps the land and
ruin dispossesses the owners of the
soil.

HISTORY OF THE WEED.

It was probably in 1873 that the

slender, reddish weed familiar enough
to the peasants, who did not, however,
take the trouble to destroy these
weeds. Perhaps they did not know
that in their old home in Russia,
this weed had long been known as one
of the most noxious of vegetable pests,
and that extensive areas of land about
the Caspian sea had been abandoned
by farmers because this weed had lit-
erally driven them out. At any rate,
all eyes were blind to the menace
implied in the appearance of this vege-
table warrior, and its plants were
permitted to go to seed. In a few
years it had extended beyond the
South Dakota hills and had reached
the plains. Here its destructive career
began. Like savages on the war-
path, these weeds were driven before
the wind, until in a few years they
had spread into North Dakota, Iowa
and Nebraska. During the next few
years the plant invaded Minnesota,
Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio and Colo-
rado, and has recently engaged the seri-
ous attention of the legislatures of
various states in vain efforts to get
rid of it. Now that it has taken hold
in Utah, there is only one safe and
rational thing to do—to kill it out and
to "do it now."

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

The weed resembles our own bushy
tumbleweeds, but has smaller and
more acute leaves, and stems a little
longer, thinner and more arched in-
wards than in our species. Like some
of our weedy plants, it is a saltwort
belonging to the order known as
chenopodiaceae—the pigweed family.



BRANCHES OF RUSSIAN THISTLE.
Two-Thirds Life Size, Drawn From Nature by Pupils of the Training School.

the branches spread out and the
leaves harden into spines. Full grown
specimens may reach a diameter of
five feet, and most of the dry bushes
are somewhat spherical in outline.
The dried plant is readily broken off
from the root and then rolls before
every wind, scattering its seeds as it
travels. A large plant is said to con-
tain 200,000 seeds, and the plants
grow so rapidly as to exclude prac-
tically all other forms of vegetation.

DRAWINGS BY PUPILS.

The drawings made by the eighth
grade pupils of the normal training
school are, considering the age of the
students who produced them, excel-
lent representations both of the Rus-
sian and of our own most common
tumbleweed, and are amply sufficient
for the purpose of readily identifying
the thistle. The photograph of the

possible scattering of the seeds over
the entire state.

"THIRD BRIGADE" OF PARIS.

I have no desire to write a technical
account of the Paris police organiza-
tion, but you could not understand the
reason of its efficiency unless you knew
a little about the famous Third Brigade.
Its business is to supervise the police.
It is under the direct command of the
chief of the municipal police, and is
composed of an officer de paix, a prin-
cipal inspector, a brigadier, five sub-
brigadiers, and a number of men aver-
aging usually 75. One and all they are
picked men. About half of them are
assigned to watch the regular patrol-
men; by day and by night they slip
about the streets, noting down all in-
fringements of the rules of the service. He
is a bold policeman who runs the risk
of visiting a little wine shop for a

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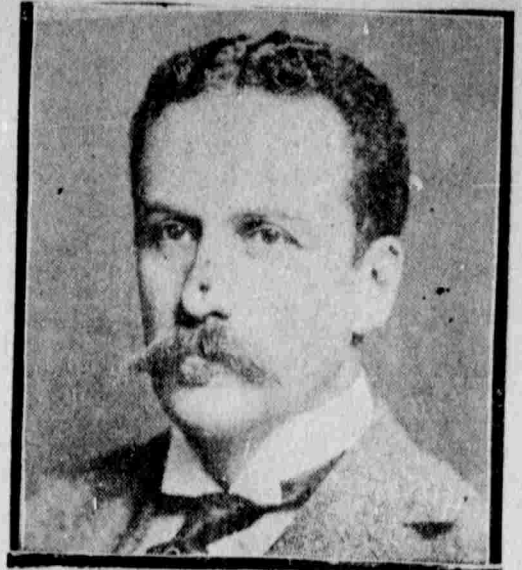
glass, or commits any of the other lit-
tle sins dear to the patrolman's heart.
There is hardly a chance that he will
not be detected in time; reprimand fol-
lows, and, after that, fine, and lastly,
dismissal. The discipline is extremely
severe. And, moreover, every man
knows that a very slight breach of the
rules entails the loss of his place. There
is always a long "waiting list" of can-
didates, sound young fellows, fresh
from the army, and the city can choose
its new servants among the best. The
other half of the Third Brigade is en-
gaged in work of a subtler and of more
typically Latin kind. In the first place,
it investigates all complaints made
against the patrolmen by citizens or
citizens; these investigations are rig-
orous and quite impartial; the agent who
is taken in fault must go. And, in the
second place, the Third Brigade main-
tains a regular system of espionage up-
on the private lives of all policemen;
he tells rank what it says. This, of
course, is the Latin way of doing
things. Wrong as it may be in prin-
ciple, it serves to weed out the men of
bad character and bad habits and bad
associations. And it prevents that trou-
sers alliance which New York has
known—of the police and the lawless-
ness. At all events, this method of ap-
proaching the police has been justified in
its results. It does not stop wholly at
the Third Brigade, for these supervisors
are, in turn, watched by a smaller band
of detectives who report directly to M.
Lepine, the prefect of police. In one
way or another, there is a spy upon
every man on the force—Vance Thomp-
son, in Everybody's Magazine.

LET'S WE

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at night, won't eat, cries spasmodically. A
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suffering, the mother does not know what
to do. A bottle of this medicine would
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his eyes. Give it a trial. Sold by Z. C. M.
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6:30, 7:30 p. m. Last train leaves LA-
GOON 10:30 p. m.



ROBERT T. BACON.

TRYING TO ESTABLISH URBAN PEACE.

Robert Bacon, the assistant secretary of state, who is now in Cuba with
Secretary of War Taft, is at present engaged in solving one of the most trou-
bling diplomatic problems of foreign pacification that has ever been brought
to the attention of his department.

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