

the Rabbit Nuisance Act. In the Noxious Weeds Act "occupier" means "every person in occupation of land, and includes the owner of any land which is unoccupied or whereof the occupier is unknown or cannot be found." In the Rabbit Nuisance Act "owner" means "any person owning any estate or interest in any private land, or who by law for the time being regulating the recovery of rates is or may become liable to pay any rates leviable in respect of such private land, or any person in possession or occupation or in receipt of the rents or profits of any private land, or any agent, trustee, executor, or administrator of an owner."

(9.) A provision of the present Act that gives rise to an immense amount of bitterness, and in many cases to gross injustice, is the one which places upon occupiers the duty of clearing the weeds off half the road adjoining their land. For instance, there are cases where the local authorities in the course of roadmaking operations have themselves spread weeds over long distances along the road reserves, yet the adjoining occupiers are now saddled with the duty of keeping half the road clear. In numbers of other cases the weeds have spread naturally along the roads or have been carried by livestock. Of course, on the other hand, there are very numerous instances where the weeds have spread from the adjoining properties. Taking the whole matter into consideration, I am strongly of opinion that the duty of clearing the weeds off the roads should rest upon the authorities responsible for the maintenance of the roads. It may be argued that the local authorities have not the necessary funds for this work, and would consequently neglect the weeds. The local authorities are, however, elected by the people, and I think the latter could be trusted to see that finance is provided and duly expended where the state of the roads in regard to weeds necessitates it. I therefore think that the Act should be amended by deleting the provision that occupiers shall clear the roads adjoining their lands.

EDUCATIVE MEASURES FOR WEED-CONTROL.

Before concluding, I should like to mention that the Fields Division of the Department is doing everything possible in the present adverse circumstances to prepare for and carry out an educative campaign amongst the farmers in regard to the best means of coping with noxious weeds in different circumstances. The Dominion has been divided into nine districts, and in eight of these a Fields Supervisor has been located, the ninth district being supervised by the headquarters of the Division. Each of these Supervisors is an experienced man in agricultural operations, including the control of weeds, and they are doing all that is possible, with the assistance of the Fields