

death. Russian thistle, sorrels, spinach and various other plants contain oxalic acid but if sufficient calcium is present in the feed, it combines with the acid and renders it harmless.

Halogeton grows on dry range land and often comes up where plant growth or surface soil has been removed. It does not compete well with other vegetation and is not expected to invade cropland or even range land in good condition. It is not very palatable and is dangerous chiefly where little other vegetation grows and especially late in the season when it retains its succulence. It is particularly dangerous if it grows abundantly along roadsides or trails where sheep are driven because the animals are likely to browse hurriedly upon it.

Chemical sprays such as 2, 4-D have been found effective in killing the weed but they do not prevent it from coming up again the next year. Such treatments are hardly practical on large areas but will be useful in checking the spread of the plant when it first becomes established. It should be watched for particularly along roadsides and around sheep bedding grounds or other bare ground in the western part of North Dakota.

Our knowledge is derived largely from information and specimens from the Idaho and Nevada Agricultural Experiment Stations.

STEVENS GETS INSTITUTE POSITION

In recognition of his continued service in research and instruction, Dr. O. A. Stevens, professor of botany at North Dakota Agricultural College and Experiment Station Botanist, will begin the 1951-52 academic year with the title of research professor of botany for the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies. Dr. Stevens, member of the college and experiment station staffs since 1909, is author of two papers in this issue of the Bimonthly Bulletin.

RURAL TELEPHONES

Richard G. Schmitt Jr., of the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington, is author of a brief article on "Farmers Mutual Telephone Companies" in the Journal of Farm Economics for February. Development and characteristics of such phone companies are given as background for part of the rural telephone job REA is undertaking, and which is creating considerable interest in North Dakota communities.

J. ALLEN CLARK RETIRED

Mr. Clark, native of Fargo, N. D., educated at North Dakota Agricultural College and the University of Minnesota, and who joined the USDA Bureau of Plant Industry in 1911, has retired after 40 years of service. During that time he played a major role in the development of stem rust-resistant spring wheat varieties. The new and now widely grown Cadet and Pilot varieties originated from his breeding work. He aided in the organization of the Co-operative Regional Spring Wheat Improvement program and has served as its co-ordinator since 1928.