

STINK WEED—THE USE OF WEEDING HARROWS.

By Mr. Richardson :

Q. Have you the Stink Weed in Ontario ?

A. Yes.

Q. To a very large extent ?

A. No; not to a very large extent, but it is found occasionally all over the country. It was introduced from Europe many years ago, and when I say we have it, while it is not abundant, there are probably few places where you could not find it by looking for it.

Q. It is becoming a most prolific weed in Manitoba ?

A. It has so become, I am afraid. Those people who have used the weeders or light harrows have met with great success at Emerson. Have you been down there lately ?

Q. Yes.

A. You will remember, then, how both sides of the valley were overgrown with it; it was just like a green sward. I have seen several clean crops near Emerson where weeders and harrows were used in spring.

Q. Did they give up summer fallowing ?

A. No; they operate the weeders after the grain is well up in the spring. Mr. Fraser, one of the best farmers there, has harrowed a great deal during the last two years. Directly the grain is up, when the weeds are less than an inch high, they run the weeders or light harrows over them and destroy myriads without injuring the wheat. Mr. Young could tell us something about the success of this practice.

Senator Young.—Yes, that is right.

Mr. FLETCHER.—The weeder is a comparatively new implement, somewhat of the same appearance as a hay rake, only with three sets of slender teeth which, instead of hooking forward, slope backwards. When drawn over fields of growing grain these stir up most thoroughly about an inch of the surface of the soil, pulverizing it and leaving it loose, so that you get the advantage of cultivation among the growing crops. They do not tear up the growing grain to any injurious extent, and they cultivate the whole of the weeds, so that on the land that is treated by the weeder you will see in a week a great difference in the crop. As an illustration of the advantage of the use of the weeders, Mr. Nicholl, a progressive farmer of Brandon, reaped thirty bushels of wheat to the acre, while his neighbour had only fifteen bushels on exactly the same kind of land.

By Mr. Calvert :

Q. What is the best way to treat mustard ?

A. With a weeder. The weeder keeps down the mustard. Therefore, I say it is far better farming than adopting any method of spraying sulphate of copper or other chemicals over the crop, which, although they will kill the mustard, are expensive and tedious. You can go over thirty or forty acres per day with a weeder.

By Mr. Featherston :

Q. The weeders are very wide, are they ?

A. They hitch two loosely together, and use two teams of horses. I have tried to get some implement maker to make a sulky weeder, with wheels and a crank to raise the teeth to clear it like a hay rake.

CROP VALUE ENHANCED BY WEEDING.

Q. Massey's have a sulky weeder now ?

A. They had not last year, they were one of the very firms I wrote to and asked them if they could produce one. I believe the salvation of the West is really