

SWEET GRASS OR INDIAN HAY.



Sweet Grass or Indian Hay.

One of the most troublesome weeds in Manitoba and the North-west Territories is Sweet Grass. It is frequently and incorrectly spoken of as Quack or Couch grass, which is quite a different plant that roots near the surface of the soil, with bluish green leaves, with no special odour and with a narrow spike of seed like a very slender starved spike of bald wheat. This can be destroyed by ploughing shallow and then cultivating frequently. The Sweet Grass, on the other hand, has a loose panicle of tawny seeds, a strong pleasant odour, like new-mown hay; it roots deeply and shallow ploughing merely encourages it to grow. The treatment which seems to have given the best results in Manitoba, is to plough in spring when the grass is in flower and then seed down heavily at once. Mr. Mackay's experience in the North-west Territories, however, is different from this. He says: "We find to plough early or when in flower only helps this weed. I would advise ploughing deeply in the latter part of July or the beginning of August, then harrow well and repeat in September and October. With us when ploughed early every root left in the ground grows, while if ploughed after dry weather, when the growing season is over, it is easily killed."

REPORT ON THE "POISON-WEED" OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FOOT-HILLS.

By Prof. John Macoun, Naturalist to the Geological Survey Department.

Early in June, 1897, reports reached Calgary that a number of cattle had died in the neighbourhood of Jumping Pound, a point in the foot-hills about twenty-five miles west of Calgary. These deaths were supposed to have been caused by the cattle eating some poisonous plant growing where they had been feeding. While I was in Calgary a jar filled with the partly digested contents of the stomach of one of the dead animals was forwarded and submitted to me. At the same time a telegram