

Q. In the west after the first crop is taken off and the land is left idle, it frequently happens that in two or three years the grass will come up and kill the weeds?—

A. Naturally the grass will come back to the land and destroy the weeds. Many of the grasses are perennial and have strong running rootstocks by which they increase rapidly, and they would in that way produce again the old prairie which existed beforehand.

By Mr. Carpenter :

Q. Can you account in any way for the mustard seed lying in this marsh you speak of for 20 odd years without its productive qualities being destroyed. It seems something remarkable to me seeing that it was a moist place. Considering that it was moist all the time one would suppose that the seed would rot and become perfectly harmless?—A. I think the reason that the mustard seeds retained their vitality so long is that they contain a large quantity of oil. This is a well-known fact, as any one can find out by crushing them.

Q. I think there must be something in that. Any other seed would be destroyed in a very short time?—A. Then it must be remembered that it was six feet deep, and the seeds would not be subject to changes of heat and cold, and would get very little air.

By Mr. Powell :

Q. Then there is a remarkable preservative power in the marsh mud. The fence posts sunk in the marsh never rot. The remains of the old French tramway down there are still preserved as perfect as ever. There may be something in that?—A. Yes. That is very true; it certainly was a remarkable occurrence. It was not that a few plants grew, but the whole farm sprang out with mustard so that it seems likely that most of the seeds were preserved.

By Mr. McGregor :

Q. I do not think it uncommon at all. I have known case after case where mustard has been turned down for 10 or 15 years and has come up again as strong as ever?—A. Yes. I believe it is frequently so, but the point Mr. Carpenter brought out was that of it lying in the wet mud all that time.

PRESERVATION OF BEES IN WINTER.

Mr. Fixter has reminded me of one thing I had forgotten to mention. That is that we are carrying on an interesting series of experiments on wintering bees. One of the great difficulties in keeping bees is the winter, and we are carrying on this year a series of experiments in wintering them, in addition to the other to which I alluded. There are some 8 or 10 experiments with bees out of doors and in the cellar which are all detailed in the annual report, and which I think will be of interest to the bee-keepers. Of course I need not say here to any of the members of Parliament that we are always very much pleased to see any one that will come and visit the different departments. During the past summer a great many people showed their interest in bee-keeping by visiting the apiary and seeing for themselves what is being done. They have given us suggestions and we have been able to give much information in return.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. How do you preserve the bees during the winter?—A. We are trying several experiments with regard to that. I am afraid I am rather a heretic among the bee keepers, but it may be that I do not know anything about it, but I think it is worth following up an idea I have. The method of wintering the bees in the past has been to keep them as warm as possible. They say:—"You must keep your bees in doors in winter and keep them nice and warm and comfortable," and all that sort of thing. Of