

PEA BLIGHT.

By Mr. Penny :

Q. You made some investigations in Prince Edward County, did you not, into the cause of pea blight?

A. Yes ; the opinion I came to some years ago on this subject was that from the special adaptability of Prince Edward County for growing pease they had grown them too long ; as it is said, the ground was "tired" of that crop, and so when there was a dry year the crop suffered, and what was called "blight" should have been called "drought."

THE PEA MOTIL.

Mr. McMillan asked about the Pea Moth in Ontario. We do not see much of it here, but I understand that down in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia the loss from it is enormous, frequently 25 per cent of the crop.

Mr. McMillan:—Last year and the year before we had a good deal of it in Huron.

By an hon. Member :

Q. How is it injurious ; does it affect the life of the pea ?

A. No ; it is a little caterpillar which works inside the pod eating into the seeds ; you will sometimes find in a pod that four or five peas have been injured. In some parts of Quebec, last year, this was very bad indeed. It is sometimes called the "Weevil," but that is a mistake ; this is the caterpillar of a small moth which eats the green pea while it is still soft.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. This seems to be an insect that strikes the pea on the outside ?

A. Yes, it is a small moth which lays the egg on the outside. The caterpillar eats its way through the pod and destroys the pease. During last summer I succeeded in breeding this insect and finding out the time when it appears. It is a small moth that appears about the 10th or 12th of July. I found out from the experience of my correspondents that the pease sown early succeeded best, and in New Brunswick those that were sown early escaped, but in gardens people must have the larger late varieties such as the Heroine, Telephone and Stratagem. The only remedy is using the early varieties. One of my correspondents is going to try spraying the pease at the time that the pods are forming. Some may say that this is impossible, just as years ago they said that it was impossible to spray a whole orchard, but we now know it is possible and must be done if we are to get good crops of fruit. I think it is possible that good results may follow spraying pease for the pea moth with Paris green in the same way as apples are for the codling moth. This is very much like the codling moth in all its habits so that we may be able to treat it in the same way.

Q. We found that by sowing late we got the best results ?

A. What would you call late ?

Q. The end of May ?

A. Was there no trouble from the pease mildewing ?