

as the flax crop is chiefly grown for seed for oil, cattle cakes, etc., large quantities in millions of tons of fibre are allowed to go to waste, while that loss in fibre is of equal if not greater value than the seed.

"The chief points of this new process are, (1) The lower cost of treatment and recovery of the fibre; (2) The saving in time in that process, etc., and (3) The increased percentage of fibre recovered over that yielded by the steeping and retting process.

"The present process of retting and scutching recovers only about 16 per cent. of the 33 per cent. of fibre in the straw, costing from £8 to £10 per ton of clean fibre recovered, while by this process the work can be done for £5 per ton of fibre with an extraction of fully 25 per cent. of fibre equal to fair Russian Colilla Tow.

This process does not aim at producing the highest class fibre but is specially adapted to meet the conditions in Canada by saving the fibre the seeded straw contains in a form available for a great many useful purposes, freely admitted by manufacturers who have seen the results obtained from waste seeded flax straw by this process.

"Where flax is grown for fibre and not for seed a simple process of recovering the fibre is of intrinsic value. The rich and unexhausted soil of the Northwest of Canada lies in the same latitude as the best flax districts of Russia, and yields straw of as good if not better quality, both for fibre and seed, so that the burning of millions of tons of flax straw should no longer prevail.

"This process will lead to an extension of flax planting in the Dominion with most gratifying results to all interested and it is pleasing to know that this year's crop already exceeds last year's flax crop by 300,000 acres.

"As to market for the fibre, it may only be mentioned what there is required in Canada yearly for the raw material of binder twine alone about 150,000 tons of fibre, this being for the most part imported from abroad, and costing from £15 to £25 and upwards per ton, amounting to the almost incredulous sum of from \$12,000,000 to \$20,000,000. The whole of the raw material for this trade should and can be provided in Canada with this process.

"A quantity of Canadian flax straw was taken lately to Scotland by a party who visited Canada to inquire into the possibilities of this industry. This straw was treated by this process and was found