

These figures show that there was a decrease in the number of acres under flax during the ten years from 1890 to 1900 in all the eastern provinces and in British Columbia, whereas in Manitoba there was a considerable increase, and a slight increase in Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The recent census of the Northwest provinces in 1906 shows remarkable increases in the production of flax seed in 1905 and 1906, especially in Saskatchewan; considerable increases also are shown in Alberta. In 1905 there was a lessened acreage of flax in Manitoba, but owing to a heavier crop that year there was an increase in the total quantity of flax seed harvested. In 1906 Manitoba showed an increase both in area and yield, and in the Manitoba crop report issued December 14, 1907, a further advance is shown with this crop:—

	Number of acres of Flax.	Number of bushels of seed.	Yield per acre.
1905.			Bush. Lbs.
Total yield for the Northwest Provinces.....	45,812	608,242	13 27
Divided as follows—			
Manitoba.....	9,205	110,041	11 95
Saskatchewan.....	35,664	486,578	13 64
Alberta.....	943	11,623	12 32
1906.			
Total yield for the Northwest Provinces.....	131,819	1,818,780	13 79
Divided as follows—			
Manitoba.....	16,501	227,796	13 80
Saskatchewan.....	108,834	1,504,814	13 82
Alberta.....	6,484	86,170	13 28
1907.			
From Manitoba Crop Report, Dec. 14, 1907—			
Manitoba.....	26,915	317,347	12 25
The final report on grain crops for 1907 published by the Government of the province of Saskatchewan, Feb. 20, 1908, gives the figures for 1907 as follows.....	126,029	1,384,710	10 91

The provincial report for Alberta is not yet received.

Flax seed, as already stated, is chiefly used in the manufacture of linseed oil. There are three large linseed oil mills in Montreal, one at Baden, Ontario, and one at Winnipeg. The combined capacity of these mills is large and all the oil they manufacture finds a market in the Dominion. The demand indeed exceeds the supply, and the flax seed produced in Canada has to be supplemented by large importations, and considerable quantities of linseed oil are also brought in from other countries. The oil cake left after the oil is expressed, so highly esteemed as a nourishing food for cattle, is partly used in Canada and partly exported to Great Britain.

CAN THE FLAX STRAW PRODUCED IN THE NORTHWEST PROVINCES OF CANADA BE PROFITABLY WORKED FOR ITS FIBRE?

In 1896 experiments were conducted with flax at the several Dominion Experimental Farms for the purpose of ascertaining whether flax fibre could be profitably produced in the different climates of Canada where these experimental farms are located, also to gain further information as to the quantity of seed which should be sown per acre, and the best time for sowing.

A sufficient quantity of seed of the best sort obtainable—grown one year in this country after importation from Russia—was secured from J. Livingston, Esq., of Baden, Ontario, who was largely interested in the flax industry in Canada, being a manufacturer both of fibre and oil. Each experimental farm was supplied with seed from this source. Instructions were sent with the seed to select enough land in a