Fibre which is used in the making of linen, is obtained from the stalk after the latter has undergone various operations ; *retting*, *drying*, *breaking*, *scutching*, which will be briefly treated later on. Let us simply say that the stalk of flax is formed of three principal parts, superposed ; a central part, called *pith*, another part called *wood*, and a surface part, stringy, surrounding the wood ; this part, called *fibre*, is detached from the pithy and stringy layers by the previous operations, and constitutes the *harl* which is worked into linen.

Description of flax

Flax is an annual plant, forming its stem and ripening its seed in the space of one season.

This plant, when ripe, is composed of a stringy stem, about two feet high, of a yellowish green, more or less ramified according to the mode and object of culture ; each branch ending in a brown spherical boll, containing from 8 to 10 seeds separated from each other by a thin partition.

It would be well to remind here that flax may be grown for seed only, as is done in the Western Provinces, or for both purposes, seed and fibre. The appearance of the plant, its method of culture, the rate of seeding, the harvesting and thrashing methods will differ considerably according to the object in mind, where the production of seed only or the production of both seed and fibre is desired.

When flax is grown for fibre, the length and quality of the straw is particularly looked for ; these two features are obtained when the stem is long, rather thin and has few branches, (only three or four bolls carried by very short branches at the upper part of the stem). If flax is grown for seed only, one will endeavour to have stems with as many branches as possible, since there are as many seed-bearing bolls as there are branches ; we will briefly state how either of these two objects can be attained.

Climate

In order to grow fibre of good quality, flax must have a long season, moderately warm and very moist weather. British Columbia is the Province where these conditions