Among other European countries which produce flax fibre are France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Hungary, and Russia. In the first four countries the acreage has steadily declined, but is stationary in Hungary and Russia. Since 1901 the area under flax in Russia has varied between 3½ and 3¾ million acres.

In Canada, flax has been grown for its fibre for a number of years in the province of Ontario, but there also the acreage has declined. According to official reports of the Provincial Government, the area devoted to the crop in that province was 12,128 acres in 1911, but less than half that amount in 1915, namely, 5,334 acres. Flax has also been grown for years to some extent in the province of Quebec.

The late Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, endeavoured to stimulate the interest taken in this crop by the publication of Bulletin No. 25 in the year 1896. Later, in 1906, he published Bulletin No. 59, dealing with the same subject and describing the result of tests made in growing flax for fibre in the different provinces of Canada.

Dr. C. E. Saunders has been engaged for a number of years in improving the varieties of flax by breeding from selected strains. Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, has experimented with a number of different varieties of flax in order to determine the best rate of sowing and the yield per acre. Some of his results will be found quoted farther on.