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FLAX-GROWING IN CANADA.

Industry Has Shown Signs of Reviving Since the War.

The carefully considered effort which is being made by the Provincial Government of Ontario to encourage the cultivation of flax in the northern part of the province is a welcome evidence of foresight. For there is a very considerable shortage of flax in the world's markets, and the old sources of supply are, for the time being, at any rate, seriously curtailed. Thus, in the days before the war, and for some time after its onset, great quantities of flax came from Russia, whilst Belgium and Holland also made considerable contributions. To-day, Russia is practically out of the market, and the supplies from Holland and Belgium are still limited. This condition has, of course, obtained for some time past, and, two or three years ago, when the demand for linen for airplane wings and other war purposes was making heavy calls on the linen production capabilities of the Allies, Canada applied herself seriously to the question of increasing the flax production of the country. To this end the Government promised a fixed price for the crop, and a bounty, running from two to nine cents a pound, to the spinner for the finished yarn. The authorities, moreover, suffered no delay in the matter. With characteristic energy they established a complete plant at Regina, Saskatchewan, for the extraction of the fibres from the flax, and arranged for the carrying out of a series of experiments in spinning, in Kitchener, Ont. The idea of the Canadian Government was, of course, not only to establish an industry which would help to meet the war needs of the Allies, but one which might be developed, after the war, to the increasing advantage of the Dominion as a whole.

Now flax is essentially the crop for the small holder. There is, it is true, really no limit to the scale upon which it can be grown, but the process of hand weeding, to which it so readily responds, makes flax a crop particularly adapted to the kind of labor generally available on a small holding. It is for this reason, no doubt, amongst others, that the Ontario Government has adopted the scheme, just referred to, of encouraging flax growing in the northern part of the province. Under this plan, various mills in older Ontario, will supply seed to be distributed among selected settlers in the north country, in quantities sufficient to plant two or more acres, whilst the settler when he has harvested his crop, to return to the mill an amount of seed equal to that which was sent to him. It is proposed then to compare the northern seed and fibre with the product grown from similar seed in the older districts, and if the results prove satisfactory, the Government is prepared to take still further steps to encourage cultivation.

Ultimately it is hoped to establish in Canada a complete linen trade, on a large scale, and not merely to cultivate flax for export. There is, however, to-day an immediate market for exported Canadian flax, not only for the sake of the linen which may be made from it, but for the sake of its many greatly needed by-products, such as linseed oil and cake.

A Beloved Princess.

Princess Patricia of Connaught will always hold a very warm place in the affections of Canadians. Her six years' residence here when she entered so heartily into Canadian life, would assure that. But more particularly is she linked with the Dominion, for all time, through the gallant "Princess Pats," the Canadian battalion named for her, which won such glory in France and Flanders. Her Royal Highness is indeed gazetted as honorary colonel-in-chief of this famous Canadian battalion. At the wedding of their honorary colonel twenty-four of the original "Pats" served as a guard of honor. Princess Patricia loved Canada. She loved the winter, with its sparkling snow, its skating, skiing and tobogganing at the capital, and the summer with its rivers and lakes and sweet-smelling forests. She loved the broad sweep of the prairies and the mighty mountains as she traveled to the coast—and more than all else, she seemed to love the people.

One recalls many times when the princess has been in the public eye, and each occasion but makes you more conscious of how beautiful she is. It might be at such functions as the Drawing-room of their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in that regal Senate Chamber in Ottawa, of which nothing now remains but ashes. It might be in Government House when a state ball was in progress. Again, it might be in the midst of a lovely garden at a garden party given by their Royal Highnesses that one recalled her. It might be on such occasions, when she smiled on Girl Guides and won their hearts.

While here during the period of the war the princess was devoted to war work. Three times a week she was to be found working at the Red Cross rooms in Ottawa. She sewed and knitted continually, always for the men in khaki. She also kept the Princess Pats provided with comforts. And since her return to England has continually visited them in hospital.

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