

that by it an acre of their flax will not produce one half—perhaps not one third—the price of what is cultivated and prepared under the modern systems.

Suggestions have been made for the formation of flax companies in Canada for the purpose of erecting scutch mills, and to purchase the crops from the growers. The formation of such companies, and flax growers becoming co-partners in them, would be a step in the right direction. By forming joint stock companies, factories could be erected, and machinery purchased; the grower's flax might be prepared for him on his own account, or purchased from him at its full value and prepared on account of the company, the employees of which must necessarily be men skilled and experienced in the business, who would also aid much in giving instruction to farmers as to growing flax. Payment of shares taken by farmers in such companies could be made by flax, and no money would be required of them, and the shares might be of so small amount as to be within the reach of almost everyone. Such stock would soon be found paying a high rate of per centage, and becoming popular would sell at a premium in the share market. Surely there are men in the Province ready to set on foot such a project, and to carry it out—men whose influence would carry weight with it, and whose money, if needs be, would be forthcoming for investment in a business of such public utility, and which would be largely remunerative to themselves.

It may be asked by some what great secret is there in the cultivation and preparation of flax, the want of knowledge of which prevents any and every one from embarking in it? There is no more secret in it than there is in any other branch of business, which requires a man to be trained to it practically to be able to realize the utmost profits the business is capable of. The knowledge of the kind of seed to sow, capacity to select it, knowledge of the kind of soils in which to sow it, the mode of cultivation of the land, the sowing of the seed, the completing of the labour, the weeding, the pulling and harvesting of the crop, are each branches of business at which a novice would find himself very deficient. The treatment after pulling is one of the most difficult matters to manage properly. It is essentially a chemical treatment, performed no doubt by simple means and in a natural way, but in which some skill in practical chemistry is necessary. Mechanical aid is also invoked, and some of the most complex and ingenious contrivances have been invented to aid in the preparation of flax, and of such there have been patented in the United Kingdom upwards of

100, in the United States upwards of 30, in Canada 5, and in Belgium, France, Austria, Prussia, and other European countries great numbers of inventions have been introduced and patented. Gold medals, and money premiums to a large amount, have been awarded for essays written on the subject. Chemical analyses and experiments have been made, and works written on the subject by learned professors. Much has been read, said, written, and done, and yet it is a wide field for further discovery; and he would be bold indeed who would assert it to be so simple as to be understood without the necessity of instruction.

### THE RECIPROCITY TREATY, AND ITS EFFECT UPON OUR MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INTERESTS.

According to the decision come to by both branches of the Federal Legislature of the United States, notice will probably be given to the British Government for the termination of the Treaty, on the 16th of March, 1866. In view of such a probability, it is well for Canadians to consider the effect it is likely to have upon their industrial interests.

Although we are convinced that the benefits of the Treaty are on the side of the United States, yet we unhesitatingly say that we consider its continuance, either in its present or a revised form, most desirable. In the first place, because, if terminated, the international difficulties in connection with the Newfoundland and contiguous fisheries, would again be opened to angry controversy; and secondly, because the more unrestricted the commerce and general business intercourse between any two nations, the less likely will it be for war, with its untold and inconceivable horrors, to arise between them. For these reasons do we earnestly desire that the friendly intercourse now existing may not be disturbed in the way proposed.

We cannot, however, look upon its termination as a thing so much to be dreaded; it has both its advantages and disadvantages. Prior to the Treaty, the *milling* interests were prosperous throughout Upper Canada, a large portion of our wheat being here manufactured into flour before shipment; but since the Treaty came into operation, the wheat has been largely purchased by American manufacturers, and by them made into the exact quality of flour suited to their home trade; but, on the other hand, the Treaty has been very beneficial to the *lumbering* and some other interests of the western part of the Province, and to the residents near the frontier generally.