

Island of the *finest quality*, is beyond a doubt; for dressed specimens were sent, some years ago, to a mercantile firm in London, which, on being shown to a gentleman in the trade, were declared to be equal, if not superior, to any that ever passed through his hands. No doubt the growth of this plant has been restricted from the want of proper machinery to dress it, and the difficulty of doing so in the cold of winter; but your Committee trust that these difficulties will be avoided, and that their endeavors to open a market for the article dried in the sheaf like grain, will be carried out by future Committees, and ultimately prove successful. Full information may then be given relative to the best system of cultivation in Great Britain and the Continent. In the meantime your Committee beg to state that they have ordered for spring arrival, a small quantity of the best Riga seed for distribution, as a change of seed must be very necessary.

In some parts of England the growth of flax, more particularly for the seed, which is used for rearing and fattening stock of all kinds, is carried to a great extent. Mr. Warner, a farmer in Norfolk, to obviate the objection made by many persons to the cultivation of the flax crop, that it returned nothing to the land, and being desirous of increasing the quantity of fat cattle sent to market, conceived the happy idea of applying linseed to the finishing off of the live stock usually kept on the farm, and proved that *double* and *treble* the usual number may be profitably retained through the medium of linseed compound, box feeding, and summer grazing.

Although Mr. Warner's system is not new—the Hindoos 1500 years ago having fed their cattle on linseed—he claims the merit of bringing the system to a practical result. The seed is reduced to a fine meal, and stirred slowly into boiling water, with a very little barley, bean, or pea meal, or without either, and poured upon chopped straw or hay, and so given to stock with the most extraordinary results, a few of which your Committee may be allowed to point out, in order to show that their wish to introduce the growth of flax, both on account of the value of its fibre and seed, is based upon sufficient grounds to render an apology for the length of their remarks unnecessary.

In speaking of cattle, Mr. Warner states that he sold in November, 1843, three small cattle bred in the early part of the summer of 1842: one cost, on the 11th March, 1845, £4; another on the 3d April, £3 3s., the other was bred on the farm, and valued at £6 10s.—their average, when killed,

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