

were wrapped in linen shows that the use of the fibre of flax is very ancient and that it was an old and well established industry in Egypt at the dawn of the Christian era. . ne three thousand years ago the Phoenicians devoted much attention to the cultivation of this plant, and subsequently the Greeks and Romans made the working of flax fibre a part of the household duties. This fibre, next to cotton, is the most valuable and universally employed textile in the whole range of vegetable fibres, and the plant can be grown in nearly every part of the world where the climate is temperate. Flax was brought to America by the early colonists, and the working of flax fibre was one of the earliest colonial industries which was encouraged on every hand. The cultivation of flax mainly for its fibre has been carried on in some parts of Western Ontario for many years, the yield of seed under such circumstances being a secondary consideration."

Much of the binder twine which is at present used in Canada is imported and all that is manufactured in Canada is made from imported raw material. The same is true of all the linen yarns used in Canada in the manufacture of huckabacks, carpets, etc., etc., which are used in large quantities, and all of which it would appear can now be made from home-grown material. Taking these facts into consideration together with the large acreage of 1,106,000 acres devoted to the Canadian flax crop this year and the almost total loss of straw of which some 2,000,000 tons will be destroyed this year, it is at once seen how vitally important is the application to the industry of efficient and economical machinery, how enormous a stimulant to the industry and how valuable to all Canada such application would be, and what an exceptionally advantageous investment opportunity lies open to this very enterprise. Taking it for granted that the value of the cultivation of flax for its seed alone is universally recognized, while the vast waste, which amounts to over \$80,000,000 this year to Canada alone, is apparently unnoticed, it is my purpose to devote as much space as possible to the wisdom of cultivating flax for its straw as well as for its seed. We find that the old process for removing the fibre from the stalk, as well as cleaning it after being removed, entailed so much time and labor that it was simply impractical for Canada and the United States to compete with foreign countries on account of their cheap labor. It seems strange also that this old process which has been in use thousands of years has been allowed to crawl along in this manner