

THE FLAX CROP

Flax is one of the oldest of our domesticated plants. Its known history dates back to early Biblical times. The Egyptian mummies are found wrapped in linen and mention is made of linen in connection with the erection of Joseph as virtual ruler of Egypt. It was probably introduced into America in the days of the Pilgrim Fathers and has been widely grown ever since. It can be grown in practically all parts of the North American continent where farming is carried on, but thrives best in those latitudes constituting the north half of the North Temperate Zone. Partly for this reason and partly because those states are among the ones most recently settled extensively, more than three-quarters of the flaxseed produced in the United States is grown in North Dakota, Minnesota and South Dakota. In the same way about nine-tenths of the flaxseed grown in Canada is produced in Southern Saskatchewan. The tables presented below reveal the growing importance of Saskatchewan in the flax raising industry of North America.

Production of flax in Saskatchewan and the United States in each year since 1902 and in Canada in 1901 and 1910, illustrating the increasingly important position occupied by Saskatchewan as a producer of that grain:

SASKATCHEWAN.

Year	Acreage	Yield	Acre yield
1910.....	396,230	3,044,138	7.68
1909.....	319,100	4,448,700	13.9
1908.....	264,728	2,589,352	9.78
1907.....	128,528	1,364,716	10.62
1906.....	76,005	710,689	9.35
1905.....	25,315	398,399	15.73
1904.....	15,917	166,434	10.45
1903.....	31,644	285,697	9.02
1902.....	16,694	153,709	9.80

Average yield for nine years..... 10.33

CANADA.

Year	Acreage	Yield	Acre yield
1910.....	476,877	3,802,000	7.97
1901.....	23,086	172,222	7.46