

In estimating the comparative advantages over the many other productions of the field, that those obtain who are engaged in the cultivation of flax as a staple, many instances might be adduced, but the following statement from the *Irish Farmers' and Gardeners' Magazine*, shows the fact to be indisputable:

A Mr. Woltenhohen sowed in the month of April fifteen Irish acres with Dutch flax seed. These fifteen acres produced 245 bushels of excellent seed, or 23 bushels per acre, worth 7s. 6d. per bushel.....		£129	7	6
He had of scutched flax, 6 tons 11 cwt. 1 qr., or 1050 stones of 14 lb., each worth 7s. 6d.....		393	15	0
Making in all.....		£522	2	6
Or per acre.....		£ 34	7	6

It may not be out of place to mention here, that Ulster, the most northerly of the four provinces of Ireland, still maintains by its flax and linen trade a population exceeding two millions, notwithstanding the very large numbers who have emigrated from that section of the country.

Among the many causes why the Canadian farmer could make not only the growth of flax, but also its manufacture into linen profitable, we have the certainty of four months' winter, during which period very little out-door occupation engages the time of the farmer and his family. This season of the year could be profitably employed in preparing the raw material for the manufacturer, and where it might be deemed advisable to use the hand loom at home, what more fitting season for such employment than our dreary winter's days and evenings, where by the comfortable hearth, the busy hum of the spinning-wheel, and the lively motion of the weaver's shuttle, would, besides the pecuniary advantages it would bring, give life and animation to that season of the year when the out-door world presents but a dreary sameness, and the vegetable kingdom seems touched with the finger of death.

If in her future destiny Canada expects to succeed in maintaining a self-sustaining position, when brought into competition with those of the extensive wheat growing prairie lands of the western region, aided as they soon will be with all the modern appliances of steam ploughs now being so effectually used in England, (and certainly well adapted to the prairie country,) she must eventually look to the resources which her magnificent water powers present for manufacturing purposes, and bring them into use as auxiliaries towards maintaining her progress and position among the surrounding state and colonies.'

The people of Canada owe Mr. Ferguson a debt of gratitude, for this bold and fearless exposition of his views, in favor of encouraging the home industry of the country. There still remains the question, where shall the farmers find a certain and profitable market for the flax and flax seed thus shown to be so profitable in Ireland? At present our farmers raise a little lint for the seed, and leave the flax to rot, or send it to the paper mill. With this prospect before them, we fear it will be impossible to induce any considerable number of agriculturists to abandon the raising of wheat for the cultivation of an article, for which there is little prospect of finding a market. The great object to be attained is a ready market, at remunerative prices, for every stone of flax offered for sale. Were its cultivation once established, capital would be attracted for the purchase of both the flax and seed; but something must be done at the outset. At the risk of being charged with a desire to return to the bounty system, we would propose a plan by which the Government might encourage the growth of flax without expense to themselves and with manifest advantage to the country. Let the Government establish warehouses in Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and London, for the receipt of flax, and appoint well qualified persons to receive and examine the same, and to grant receipts for the quantity delivered, describing the quality according to a scale to be agreed upon.

These receipts to state the quantity and quality of the flax, to be payable six months after date at the current price of flax, less a certain per centage for freight and commission, &c., and to be negotiable instruments passed from hand to hand without endorsement. They would thus obtain at once a money value, while the flax could be shipped in bond and sold by an agent in the British markets. This could be equally