

Holland. In former times a great quantity of American seed was used which was what is grown in the State of New York, and neighboring States, as well as in Canada, in fact the same kind of seed as we now have in this Province; some here, chiefly in the Seignior Country, for the sake of the seed, which is crushed into linseed oil.

This species of flax is hardly ever sown now in Ireland. Although finer than the Dutch or Russian, it does not yield so much weight, being a good deal shorter. It only grows three feet, whilst the other may grow four feet long, making a difference of one fourth in quantity. The European seed is also a surer crop, as the American seed in a dry spring is likely to grow stunted, (technically fired.) However, from what I see and know of the flax crops of Canada, raised from native seed, I think with proper cultivation, our own seed as a general rule might do; but it would be well, should opportunity offer, to introduce both Russian and Dutch, which could be done under the auspices of the Farming Society, and if once imported, the seed could afterwards be saved in the country.

The price of new seed in spring in Ireland is 10s., sterling, per bushel, here I think it would cost 15s., currency, or upwards, while the native seed of Canada is only 6s., currency. It would be therefore a matter for consideration, whether a few hundred bushels of seed would be taken by the farmers at that high price if imported.

Next as to the sowing. The same land that will grow good, strong, red clover, will grow flax; rather dampish, low lying, retentive soil, the deeper ploughed the better, well pulverized, but as early sown as the weather will permit. Ground which has been under fallow or green crop will do. Clean stubble ground if the land be strong enough, will do better. Old, rich lea, after oats, will do better still, but is seldom found in Lower Canada. In all cases to be ploughed deep in the fall, drained as dry as possible, and a light ploughing in spring also. The new chain harrow seems particularly well adapted to the pulverizing of the soil, and covering at a moderate depth such small seed as flax. Two bushels of seed would be the proper quantity for an arpent.

Like any other crop, the cleaner the ground the better, and should weeds arise, they must all be hand pulled clean out of the ground. Weeding is absolutely necessary, and fortunately it does not spoil the plant to tread upon it even when two feet high. The ridges may be broad or narrow, according to the nature of the ground, from six feet to eighteen, and rather flat, so as the crop may ripen evenly.

When the flax is ripe, which is known by the lower leaves withering, and the stem becoming a bright golden yellow, and the seed turning from green to pale brown, then you must pull the crop as quickly as possible. It should be all pulled in three days, place the handfuls upright in the field, like long stooks, but without tying them in sheaves at that stage. In this way they will dry perfectly without danger of mildew, and may then be tied into bundles the size of a small sheaf of oats, and then stacked until it is convenient to bring it to market. Flax from Canadian seed ought to produce stalks from two feet six inches to two feet nine inches of clean stalk before it commences to branch, eight or ten bushels of seed on the arpent. (The better the flax the less seed there should be.) It should weigh 1½ tons per arpent, seed included, and be worth £8 per arpent. But this, like any other crop, must vary very much in productiveness and price. Some boasting of twenty bushels of seed per acre, and of their crop being worth £20 per acre. Such cases may occur, but are not to be relied on as a general rule.

Dutch and Russian seed will grow three feet before branching, and consequently will have a greater weight of flax. But the Canadian flax may grow so fine as to be more valuable, and in this way good quality might compensate for deficient quantity. I believe if Canadian flax were pulled rather green, before the seed had ripened, it would be remarkably fine in quality, and bring a high price; the price of dressed flax varies from £40 to £80 per ton, the average being £56. An arpent would produce less than one quarter of a ton of dressed flax. The freight to England would be about £1 10s. per ton, which is a small per centage on the value.

Thus I have in general terms given the result of my observations and calculations, bringing the crop up to the period when it