

Produce of a fair average crop of flax per acre.		
	£ s.	£ s.
Seed—20 bushels, at 6s. 6d. ....	6	10
Tow.....	0	10
Refuse, suitable for bedding and manure.....	0	5
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Leaving the sum of £8 15s to be produced by the sale of the crop of dressed flax, which may be estimated at 50 stone of 14 lbs, 700 lbs., at 3d. per lb.....	8	15
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If 50 stones of dressed flax should be considered an excessive crop (which from Mr. Warne's and Mr. Dickson's report, it is not,) even 30 stones at 3d. per lb. would produce the same money. An excessive crop is the more particularly desirable from the circumstance, that the more crowded the stems are upon the ground the finer will be the fibre, though the produce of grain or seed will be less; and as the increase is in that particular item in the crop which is the least exhausting to the soil, and at the same time most valuable, it seems highly desirable to adopt the thick mode of sowing. By sowing 3 bushels of seed per acre, as much as 70 stones, or 980 lbs. of fine dressed flax have been obtained, with a produce of only 12 to 14 bushels of grain; whereas by sowing only 30 stones, or 420 lbs. of flax of a coarser quality has been the result, though with a crop of grain amounting to 26 or 30 bushels. At present, I believe, the price of dressed flax varies from £40 up to £120 per ton, or from 5s. or 15s. per stone of 14 lbs., according to its fineness, color, and quality. This discrepancy of inequality proceeds in a great measure from mismanagement, and hence the great scope that exists for improvement, and encouragement held out for attaining excellence in its production and preparation.

I confidently believe that almost in every instance in which loss has been sustained in the growth of flax, it has arisen from the grower either not having had the means, or not having possessed the skill necessary for conducting the operations in an adequate manner. The expense and trouble attendant upon the preparation of flax have been supposed to render its cultivation by the farmer little desirable; but should an increased production take place, the demand for better machines, and for regular district flax dressing establishments would be immediately answered by their productions—as, in this country the demand for the exertion of talent and energy in any particular direction, is always followed by the supply—and if the same or equal talent and ingenuity had been exercised upon the production of machinery for preparing flax for the manufacturer, which have been displayed in after processes of spinning, the advantage to the country would have been immense. The energetic and indefatigable firm of Messrs. Marshall and Co., of Leeds, to whom the linen manufacture of England is so much indebted, I am happy to say, are turned their attention to the preparatory processes of flax dressing, having purchased an extensive

tract of land in Horderness, chiefly with the view of growing and preparing flax, and are erecting an establishment on a large scale, for the purpose of steeping, bleaching, and scutching the stem. The dampness of the climate of Great Britain and Ireland is often complained of; and, if a disadvantage in some respects, it ought to be turned to account in those instances where it is favourable to particular vegetation, and this moisture being highly conducive to the prosperous and successful cultivation of flax, that crop ought to be grown. But there is another consideration which I conceive to be most important in estimating the advantage of flax culture in a populous country like England, —which is, that out of the expense of £12 per acre incurred in raising the flax, and preparing it for the manufacturer, about £4 15s. pays the cost of horse hire, manure, rent and taxes, and the remaining £7 5s. is expended in the wages of manual labour; whereas in a crop of corn, not about one-fourth of the sum is appropriated to manual labour. According to the present returns, the annual imports of foreign flax are about 70,000 tons, for the payment for which, a sum of about £6,000,000 is sent out of the country. This weight would occupy about 250,000 acres for its production with an expenditure of nearly £2,000,000 in wages, and a profit to the growers of at least the same amount—inducements surely sufficiently potent to encourage the increased home production of this important raw material, not only from the dictates of that all-powerful stimulus self interest, but from the more worthy motive of patriotism. Having enumerated some of the advantages of promoting the growth and extended use of flax in England, he adverted to the consideration whether its fabrics can successfully compete in cost with those of cotton. With regard to its price (he said) I think I have shown that with proper management flax can be afforded, in a state prepared for the manufacturer, at a cost of 3d. to 3½d. per lb. The price of good American or Georgia cotton has within the last 30 years varied exceedingly. At the beginning of that period it was 20d., and about two years ago it had gradually fallen to the very low price of 4½d. At present, owing to the deficiency of the crop, it is from 7d. to 8d. per lb. It appears therefore that in comparing the respective costs of the raw materials of the two manufactures, flax has an advantage (and occasionally a great one) in point of cheapness—and allowing the after waste in process of spinning to be 20 per cent. greater than that of cotton, the actual cost of operation in other respects being much the same, still flax may be well able to compete with its foreign rival.

*Farmers' Recipe for Burns or Fresh Wounds on Man or Beast.*—Take from your garden a beet, (the sugar beet is best,) boil till tender in fair water, take it out, and let the water boil down to a small quantity (say a gill,) turn into a covered cup or small dish. When it is cold it will be as thick as thin paste. Apply to the wound as soon as convenient, change frequently; do not fear trying it because so simple—it will surely prove efficacious.—*Pra. Far.*