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CANADIAN FLAX.

Inquiry into the possibility of utilizing the Western Canada flax straw for textile purposes has been made in Great Britain, according to information received at Ottawa, by Trade Commissioner Just, of Manchester, England. The growing scarcity of raw flax for the linen industry has led the British manufacturers to look for new sources of supply and the increase in prices in recent years is of a nature to encourage such experiment. Russian flax, retted and scutched, which in 1905 commanded a price of \$131 per ton, is now worth \$170.

In order to test the possibilities of the Canadian flax, the commissioner secured samples of the complete plant as harvested in 1912 at Teulon, Manitoba, which were submitted to tests at Bielefeld, Germany. This flax straw underwent the usual retting process and the fiber was examined by a practical spinner, who stated that he must allow for a further loss in weight of between 50 and 60 per cent. in putting the retted fiber through a carding machine in order to remove the remaining impurities. The fiber was found rather brittle and of little use, even for heavy tow 6 to 8 lea.

Hitherto Western Canadian flax has been grown solely for seed and the experiment is regarded as an indication that where flax is grown primarily for the seed yield, a poor quality of fiber results.

TWENTY YEARS AGO.

Montreal markets — Choice beef, per pound, 12c. to 15c.; second cut, 8c. to 10c.; mutton hindquarters, 10c. to 12c.; forequarters, 8c.; lamb hindquarters 10c. to 12c.; forequarters, 8c. to 10c.; pork, 11c. to 13c. turkeys per pound, 9c. to 11c.; large chickens, per pair, 50c. to 55c.; fowls. per pound, 7c. to 9c.; domestic ducks, per pair, 75c. to \$1; geese, per pound, 6c. to 8c.

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