price at which they sold. I have already mentioned that they are composed chiefly of some of the more familiar foods mixed with a small quantity of aromatics. The exact proportion in which these latter substances exists in them cannot be accurately determined, but it is not large, and does not exceed 10 per cent. Indian corn, carob beans, &c., cost about £8 or £9 per ton, and fecungree and carraway seeds £20 to £25. A mixture of nine tons of the former, and one of the latter, should therefore be sold at £10 or £11 per ton, in place of £20 or £30, the price actually charged; so that if these goods do produce the alleged effect, the farmer is made to pay for them three times their intrinsic value. This fact is of itself a sufficient comment on what has been already stated, and the truth is that the "discoveries" of which the makers of these foods boast are confined to the art of extracting money from the pockets of the farmer.

The general conclusions to be drawn from what has now been said may be summed up in a very few words:—1st, Common salt, the most important condiment, has no effect in promoting the assimilation of the food, and, when used in *large* quantity, has rather a tendency to produce a waste of nutritive matters; 2nd, Both it and phosphate of lime, and probably other mineral substances, may exercise a beneficial effect on the health when the quantity existing in the food is less than the animal requires; 3rd, There is not the slightest reason to suppose that the so-called condimental foods produce any effect on the animal, as they consist only of ordinary grains mixed with small quantities of aromatic and bitter substances, which, so far as our present knowledge goes, do not in an way affect the nutrition of animals.

Flax Culture.

As the question of Flax cultivation is now on the tapis, and as I am thoroughly convinced of its importance, both as regards the interests of the farmers as individuals and the Province as a whole, I beg to send you the following remarks. I see by the Annual Report of the Directors of the North Oxford Agricultural Society, in last week's *Times*, that the Hon. G. Alexander and Mr. Penman have very liberally offered to give ten dollars each as a prize or prizes for the best samples of flax grown in the North Riding this year. With all due deference to those gentlemen, I would beg to suggest that the offering of prizes is not alone sufficient to insure the growth of such a quantity as would pay the interest on capital expended in the erection of a scutching mill. The majority of the farmers know little or nothing about the cultivation of the plant, and consequently will be unwilling to spend money and labour upon its growth, unless previously well assured of its proving remunerative The surest way, in my opinion, would be to form a Company with such a capital as would enable them, after erecting a house with machinery, to purchase flax seed, and by advertisements inform the farmers that they could have seed for any amount of land they would guarantee to sow; the Company taking their notes for the amount, redeemable by so much flax (of course at market price) at the end of the year. Such a system would enable the farmers to try the experiment without any outlay in hard cash, and that, with not a few, is a desideratum.

And a still greater inducement would be for such a Company to start Schenk's process of preparation, viz: to steam the flax for the purpose of separating the wood fibres, instead of steeping it in water; and to purchase the flax from the farmers as soon as pulled, at so much per ton for the raw material. This would save the farmers all the extra labour that would necessarilly be incurred in the steeping, spreading, turning, trying, &c., and as the flax would come in about the busiest season, and the seasons in this country being so short, I believe the extra labour likely to be incurred would be the greatest drawback to its introduction here. As far as Schenk's system is concerned, I have seen it tested, and have no hesitation in saying that it would pay as a commercial speculation. Were a Company formed in the town or country they might get up machinery for the manufacture of flax through every process, from the raw material to the finest linen; rendering us in a few years entirely independent of the cotton of the Southern States.—J. W. M.—*Woodstock Times.*

Products of the Hemp Plant—(Cannabis Sativa.)

The hemp plant is known chiefly in this country on account of the valuable fibre it affords, which is in such constant use in the manufacture of cord, ropes, &c. Although its fibre is of the greatest value to us, still its other products are equally valuable to the natives of tropical climates. For example, in the East it is cultivated entirely on account of its narcotic resin, which is spontaneously secreted in all warm climates. In cooler temperatures it is grown exclusively for the sake of its fibre, as in Russia, Prussia, Spain, Italy, &c. It grows wild in temperate Asia and in Northern India.

Hemp appears to have been known from a very remote period, the first mention of it being made in the first book of Herodotus (C.202) where he says: "The Scythians never washed any part of their bodies excepting their heads, and accordingly purified themselves with an intoxicating kind of smoke, which seems to be somewhat analogous to the smoke of tobacco. Having first washed and thoroughly cleansed their heads, they made a tent by stretching thick