

and in 1754 (?) there were stated to be fourteen mills in operation for the production of flax or linseed oil. In 1827 Bouchett gives the quantity of flax raised in Lower Canada as 11,729 cwts., or 1,313,648 lbs.

Hemp.

Among the instructions given by the King of France in 1665* to Sieur Talon on his appointment as Intendant of Justice, Police, and Finance in New France (Canada), he was desired to report whether the country would grow hemp, and in reply M. Talon stated that "at least as much hemp can be expected from these lands as is procured in those of France."

The cultivation of flax and hemp in the French and English Colonies was a favourite subject with several of the British and French governors previous and subsequent to the conquest.

Governor Moore wrote to Lord Shelburne in 1767 on the encouragement which should be given to the culture of hemp on the borders of New Hampshire. But long before that period, the French had entered upon its cultivation in Lower Canada. In 1719, 5,080 lbs. of hemp were produced, but in 1721, or two years later, the quantity returned was only 2,100 lbs. It was not until about the year 1800 that any great efforts were made to introduce the general cultivation of this important fibre in the British Provinces.

In the Transactions of the Society of Arts for the year 1802, we find the following premiums offered for the cultivation of hemp in Upper and Lower Canada:—

"To any person who shall sow with hemp the greatest quantity of land in the Province of Upper Canada, not less than six arpents (each four-fifths of a statute acre), in the year 1802, and shall, at the proper season, cause to be plucked the summer hemp (a male hemp bearing no seed) and continue the winter hemp (or female hemp, bearing seed), on the ground until the seed is ripe—

- THE GOLD MEDAL, OR ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.**
Second Prize—The Silver Medal, or Eighty Dollars.
 Third " " " Sixty "
 Fourth " " " Forty "
 Fifth " " " Twenty "

* The population of New France, or Canada, at this time was very small. The following statistics are interesting records of the early history of the Province; they are from the "Paris Documents"

CENSUS OF CANADA.

	1666.	1667.	1668.	1679.
Families.....	749	1,139
Persons.....	3,418	4,312	5,879	9,400
Arpents cultivated.....	11,174	15,642	21,900
Horned Cattle.....	2,136	3,400	6,983
Horses.....	145
Sheep.....	719

The Society of Arts did not limit their awards to Agriculturists, but they offered "To the master of that vessel which shall bring to this country the greatest quantity of marketable hemp, not less than one hundred tons, in the year 1803, the produce of Upper or Lower Canada, the Gold Medal," and a second prize of a Silver Medal to whoever shall bring not less than fifty tons.

In 1802 the Government of the Province voted £1200 for the encouragement of the culture of hemp, and much interest was excited on the subject in the colony. Various letters and papers from Canada appear in the London Society of Arts Journal, for the year 1803, on this subject. A Hemp Society was established under the immediate patronage of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Milnes in Lower Canada and did good service by distributing seed and publishing useful information respecting the culture of that important plant.

In 1802 the Gold Medal of the London Society of Arts was awarded to Isaac Winslow, Esq., of Montreal, for his culture and preparation of hemp in Lower Canada. In Upper Canada, the Gold Medal of the Society was awarded to Mr. Jacob Schneider, of the Township of York, for his culture of hemp in the Province.

The letter containing Governor Hunter's certificate on account of Jacob Schneider, is dated York, Upper Canada, 18th November, 1802, and signed W. Allan. The Silver Medal was awarded to Mr. Daniel Mosher, of Kingston.

Mr. Allan, in his communication to the Society of Arts, states "that there is every probability that the culture of hemp for exportation from this country, more particularly from the Province of Upper Canada, will eventually have the desired effect; and the more support it receives in its infancy the sooner will this be ascertained. There has been a very considerable quantity exported this present year, and many affidavits state its being cultivated at a small expense."

In 1803, thirty-five dollars was awardee to Mr. William Hughes, of Yonge Street. In 1804, Silver Medals were awarded to Mr. J. Cornwall, and Mr. P. Wright.

Mr. Philemon Wright,* who, in the year 1800, invaded the wilderness in the immediate neighbourhood of Ottawa, early turned his attention to the cultivation of hemp. One year Mr. Wright raised a considerable quantity, and sent a very fine

* Mr. Philemon Wright, an American Loyalist, emigrated from Woburn, in the State of Massachusetts, to Canada in 1800. Bouchette says, "Through hardships, privations and dangers that would have appalled an ordinary mind, he penetrated an almost inaccessible country, and where he found desolation and solitude he introduced civilization and the useful arts. By his almost unaided skill and indefatigable industry, the savage paths of a dreary wilderness have been changed into the cheerful haunts of man."—*Bouchette's Topographical Dictionary of Lower Canada.*