

vesting of it, it would still be a great incentive and encouragement for us to go on and develop the industry in this country, because the product of flax outrivals in value per acre at the present time any cereal that we grow.

I am at liberty, I presume, to make that statement here, because I visited the Experimental Farm the other day, and told Prof. Grisdale that one prominent grower in western Ontario, who is a very large producer, Mr. Howard Fraleigh, of Forest, told me that he had sold his flax fibre this year at the rate of \$1,400 a ton, and his average production on the ground he cultivated was 400 pounds of fibre to the acre. The average production of seed was from eight to nine bushels to the acre. That seed of western Ontario to-day has established such a reputation in Great Britain and Ireland that it is practically the only seed being used for the fibre they are expecting to produce for their aeroplanes next year. Now, Prof. Grisdale told me, when I thought that was an extraordinarily good price, that they have samples of fibre from Quebec, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Ontario, New Brunswick, and practically from all parts of Canada sent from experimental farms and stations where they have been grown to be put through the appliances for scutching and heckling in the flax mill at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and to be put in shape for the market. Here is fibre, drawn from all the districts of Canada, making a conglomerate collection of various qualities no doubt, and grown under different conditions, yet the total product of all that fibre this year has been sold by the farm at the price of \$1,400 per ton. I do not know how far that goes. I would suggest, however, that the product of this year gathered at the Central Experimental Farm would mean that the overhead cost of operation had been almost covered by the sale of fibre this year. I hope that is a condition which does prevail, because it would be a justification for what has already been done, as well as a substantial reason why the Department of Agriculture should even go further than they have gone.

I said that the seed grown in the province of Ontario to-day is practically the only seed that is being used in Ireland in the production of fibre with which the British Government next year propose to construct their aeroplane wings. I understand it is also used in the body of the machines. Two years or so ago, at a large world fibre show held in Ireland, flax grown in Ireland from Canadian fibre seed won first prize

[Mr. Glass.]

against the competition of the whole world. In Ireland last year or the year before, it is stated—and I have it vouched for by those who have seen it—that if you go through the country in the districts where this commodity is grown, the reputation of Ontario flax seed has made such headway that along the farms on big signboards you will see in strong outstanding letters the words “Flax Fibre from Canadian Seed.” In Ireland at the present time the value of Ontario seed for fibre is \$10 a bushel. I submit that we have established a reputation that it is our duty to carefully guard and protect against the inroads of other countries and of other seeds which may be brought into competition with ours.

Just here I want to draw the attention of the minister to a certain matter, and I have no doubt he is fully apprised of it and may have taken action. The British Government have found difficulty in getting seed. Notwithstanding that in Ireland they produce a very good quality of fibre, I am told that they cannot allow the straw to mature sufficiently so that the seed will be sufficiently ripened to be used for another crop. For that reason, in the past, Ireland has largely depended for her seed on Holland. We in Ontario, or in Canada, have been using Dutch seed; we have grown it here, for the general practice has been to continue its growth in Ontario for a period of four years, and experience has shown that it gradually runs out, and must be replenished with new seed. Now, the seed we have sent to Ireland is a Holland seed we have grown for one year in this country, and then shipped to Ireland to meet the needs of this year. Were it not for the seed supplied by Canada, notwithstanding the need for fibre in the armies next year, there would not have been seed available in any part of the world to meet the need. To that extent we have helped the Mother Country and the Empire, and we can well congratulate ourselves and the department on our foresight in stimulating this industry, so that instead of growing the few thousand acres we did in 1916, our increase for last year was practically equal to almost double the product of two years ago.

Now, Great Britain was bringing over from Japan, or some one was bringing from Japan, a large amount of seed, which came across from Vancouver as far as Montreal. I am speaking of this as reported in the papers, and as the press shows it by advertisements, about which I am going to