

quantity in the day, than to produce a good yield from the straw.

THE COURTRAI SYSTEM.

This is the universal mode in the district from which the finest flax we receive is brought. As soon as pulled, the flax is stooked without binding it. The handfuls are set up, resting against each other, the root ends spread out, and the top ends joining like the letter A, forming stooks about eight feet long, and a short trap keeping the ends firm. In this way, it will resist wind and rain well, and dry fast. In six or eight days, it may be stacked in the field; the seed to be taken off at leisure in Winter; the flax to be steeped the following May—a system which possesses the advantages of affording the farmer the best season of the year for steeping and grassing, and a time of comparative leisure, when his attention is not called off to the harvesting of other important crops. It has, in many cases, when tried in this country, proved highly successful; although, in others, it has failed, from want of experience, perhaps, in watering and grassing it. The treatment, in this way, has made the flax, in some cases, worth two or three shillings per stone more, than part of the same crop, steeped green. It is recommended that trials of this system should be made, in the first instance on a small scale.

MODE OF USING FLAXSEED FOR FEEDING CATTLE, &c.

The seed, given by itself, is too strong and oily to be very wholesome food; and, besides the mucilaginous matter prevents the seed from being bruised by the animals' teeth, or dissolved by the gastric juice. It is much better to take the bolls to a mill, where there are edge-stones, without thrashing out the seed, and to have them ground under the stones, set very close, or have the seed cracked in an oat bruiser; or the small farmer, when no other means are within his reach, may use a metal pot, bedded in clay, and pound the bolls in it, with hard wood pestle, made to fit the bottom of the pot. About a dozen of strokes are sufficient to make the bolls into a fine meal. The chaff and seed, mixed together, afford most excellent nourishing food. It may be given steamed or boiled; but it is best to steep the mixture from twelve to twenty-four hours in cold water, and then mix it up with lukewarm water, to the consistence of gruel. It will have formed a rich and finely dissolved jelly, easily digested, and of the most wholesome and nutritive quality, excellent to be given cows for producing plenty of milk and butter, for horses, for young cattle, or for pigs; a pint of linseed and half a bushel of the chaff, may be given at a feed.* A farmer, who has once experienced the advantages

* Four quarts of unbruised bolls contain, on an average, a pint of pure seed.

of saving the seed bolls of his flax crop, will never neglect it again, as they can be turned to advantage one way or other.

TO AVOID EXHAUSTING THE LAND BY GROWING FLAX.

It has always been urged against flax culture that it exhausted the soil; but this is not necessarily the case. If the seed be saved, and the cattle fed upon the bolls, a valuable addition will be made to the manure heap, as perhaps, the richest manure is produced by this kind of food. The putrescent water from the flax pools should be carefully preserved, and either used as a top-dressing for grass, or mixed with the weeds, and other refuse of the crop, in a heap to ferment. By these means, almost all the matter abstracted from the soil, by the flax crop would be returned in the shape of manure—the fibre being supplied by the atmosphere alone.

AMHERST AGRICULTURAL FAIR.

This Exhibition took place on the 24th of October. The number of entries was 197, being something less than last year. The attendance is reported as not large notwithstanding the weather was favorable. Some very good horses were on the ground. The show of neat Cattle was fair. The best pair of oxen girted seven feet six inches and seven feet eight inches; the best two year old steers weighed 2,600. There were eleven entries of sheep. The cereals, vegetables, and dairy produce made a good show, but there was a sad deficiency in manufactures. The *Chignecto Post* observes in reporting upon this Exhibition that "Cumberland is undoubtedly a magnificent Agricultural county, but its people do not yet feel that interest in its Agricultural Fairs sufficient to make them of real value to the country."

A day will come when the Legislatures of our own as well as the sister Province will make strict inquiries into all matters connected with Agriculture.

We consider the present, a most critical time, as regards this interest. Should investigation show that the large amounts of money annually granted are not productive of general good, but that the great body of farmers hold themselves aloof from taking any interest in the Societies, from what is well known to be a fact in a great many cases—the indisposition to contribute a paltry dollar towards advancing the interest of their special calling, it need not surprise anybody should the Governments readily discover their best policy would be to help only those who help themselves.

[The above is from a recent issue of the *Colonial Farmer*. We do not pretend to judge how far the remarks are applicable to the Agricultural Societies of New Brunswick, but this much is certain that they do not apply to our Societies in Nova Scotia. From another article in the same journal it appears that every dollar paid by members draws three from the Government, that is in New Brunswick. But in Nova Scotia our farmers have to take much more of the

burden upon their own backs. Last year they subscribed \$3046, and received from the Government \$3372. Most of the money was spent in the purchase of thorough-bred Stock. Very little of it goes for prizes, much of the prize funds being raised by subscriptions and otherwise, independent of the annual subscriptions of members, which alone count in rating for the Government grant. Here we feel that the time has come for a large increase of the Legislative grant, and if the policy be to help those who help themselves; then our farmers have a pretty strong claim, having raised their subscriptions from \$1800 in 1864 to \$3000 in 1870, without receiving any additional government aid.—Ed. J. of A.]

THE QUEEN OF AUTUMN.

We have not seen the chrysanthemum cultivated as it deserves to be in ninety-nine gardens out of every hundred we have visited. It is certainly one of the most "popular" of all flowers, yet its "homes" are far separated, and thousands of people who profess to love flowers could not now present a friend with a single flower or the promise of one. The bedding plants are no longer attractive, the plant houses everywhere are filled, the craving for flowers is as active as ever, and yet were amongst the thousands of gardens in the suburbs of London, to say nothing of other great centres, shall we find one in which the chrysanthemum has the place of honor to which it is entitled by sheer merit and usefulness? There can be but one answer, and it is "Nowhere." This, however, must be qualified with the observation that a select few of the choicest floricultural spirits here and there do appreciate it and bestow upon it the small amount of care it requires and deserves. Our correspondent, Mr. James, of Ineworth, has furnished the best lesson perhaps of the value of the chrysanthemum in a private garden, and the more to be commended, doubtless, because he has not only communicated his routine of cultivation to the readers of the *Gardener's Magazine*, but has presented proofs of his skill in the beautiful specimens he has exhibited at South Kensington. Those who cultivate the chrysanthemum with zeal equal to that of Mr. James are few and far between, yet we ought to be able to count them by hundreds, for in its season, it has no competitor, and may be truly designated the Queen of Autumn. That we do not meet with chrysanthemums in conservatories and sheltered boarders, except as rarities, is perhaps to be ascribed in part to a prejudice against them founded on ignorance, but in part also, no doubt, to the immense absorption of glass, labor and admiration by the ordinary run of bedding plants, which have become a conspiracy of