

The demand for flaxseed is just as constant as for other grains. Canada has always been a large importer of linseed oil, both in the raw state and manufactured. This demand is bound to increase. The oil is a staple product, and with the development of cattle-breeding, the demand for oil-cake and oil-meal will increase in the same proportion, as these feeds are as much of a necessity to the feeder as are bran and shorts. In Manitoba the quantity used is comparatively small owing to the abundance of pasture and coarse grains. As settlement becomes denser and pasture more valuable, larger quantities of concentrated foods will be required and our farmers will have a home market for these important by-products of the flax crop.

An important advantage claimed for flax is that it can be grown successfully on new breaking. Some think that it leaves the land in bad condition for a grain crop, and that only a season of summer-fallowing will bring it into good condition, while others claim that good crops of wheat may be secured regularly after flax on breaking. The effect depends largely on the way the land is treated after the crop is taken off.

It is a common belief that flax is very exhausting to the fertility of the soil. Experiments and chemical analysis on soils before and after flax and wheat crops seem to demonstrate that this prejudice is unfounded, and such is the result of experiments made by Prof. Sheppard, in North Dakota. Flax, however, should not be grown except in rotation with other crops. This is equally true of all grain crops. A better crop of wheat can, however, be secured after flax than after wheat.

Flax is a poor weed fighter and the ground therefore on which it is sowed should be in the best possible condition, otherwise the crop is heavily handicapped. The nearer the surface that the seed can be placed and still secure the requisite moisture, the better the results. Two pecks of seed per acre is about the proper quantity to sow. Seeding should be done late enough that the young plant will not be cut off by the late frosts. After the plant has a number of leaves there is no danger from this source. While it has only the two seed leaves the frost is likely to kill it. The crop requires a comparatively short time to mature and will usually ripen in good season when sown late in May or even in June.

A NEW MARKET FOR FABRICS.

A new market for manufactured goods, especially in the line of fabrics, is opening up in Abyssinia, where, according to Major Ciccodicola, Italian Consul at Adis-Ababa, the natives are, under the influence of Menelek, abandoning the predatory habits fostered by a long period of anarchy and civil war, and resuming agricultural operations. European tastes are becoming

general, even to the extent of employing the telegraph and telephone, to say nothing of railway facilities, and a very considerable demand has sprung up for such goods as felt hats, boots, umbrellas, and other manufactures. We do not know that foreign manufacturers would be willing to accept as payment for these goods the prevailing currency of the country, which consists of bars of salt and lengths of calico, the latter of which is imported through British traders, though said to be of North American manufacture, but silver dollars are coming into vogue, and the more Menelek sees his image and superscription upon them, the more is he likely to encourage their use. Some £240,000 worth of calico is imported annually, and so cheap is it that, notwithstanding the heavy cost of transport, a 34 yards' length of ordinary quality sells at Adis-Ababa for about 10s. 6d., while the same length of the best quality can be had for 15s. Silk, mostly of inferior quality, goes from France, and the Italian gentleman referred to is endeavoring to develop a trade in that class of fabric with his country, and has been commissioned, during a visit, to buy large quantities of various qualities. The Abyssinian is also learning to walk on carpets, and imitation Persian and Turkish rugs form an article of considerable traffic. As woollens are taking the place of cotton for native wear in China and other foreign countries, perhaps our Canadian manufacturers can find in Abyssinia a new field to exploit. May it not be that by opening up new markets, such as this, they can overcome to some extent the disability under which they are placed by the preferential tariff? Other classes of manufacturers might also look to such countries for new openings.

—The strike in the United States, against operating two looms, has almost come to an end, in favor of the mills. A constantly increasing number of looms are being put in operation, and the loom fixers, who went out in sympathy, are again at work. Sympathy in this case seems to have been generally with the American Woolen Co.

—Excellent as the negro may be as a cotton picker, and cheap as black labor is, he will have to give way to the inevitable and take a back seat to the machine. The first regular contract ever made in the world to pick cotton by machinery, according to the Boston Journal of Commerce, has been closed for next autumn. A Pittsburg man is the inventor of the device. He says that it has been modelled on a practical working basis, and feels confident that he will revolutionize the cotton-picking industry in the south. The machine, however, is valueless except on level uplands, low valleys and prairie grounds, but even if it should prove successful with this limit, its effect on the labor question in cotton-growing areas must be very marked.