

FLAX GROWING IN THE NORTH-WEST FOR SEED.

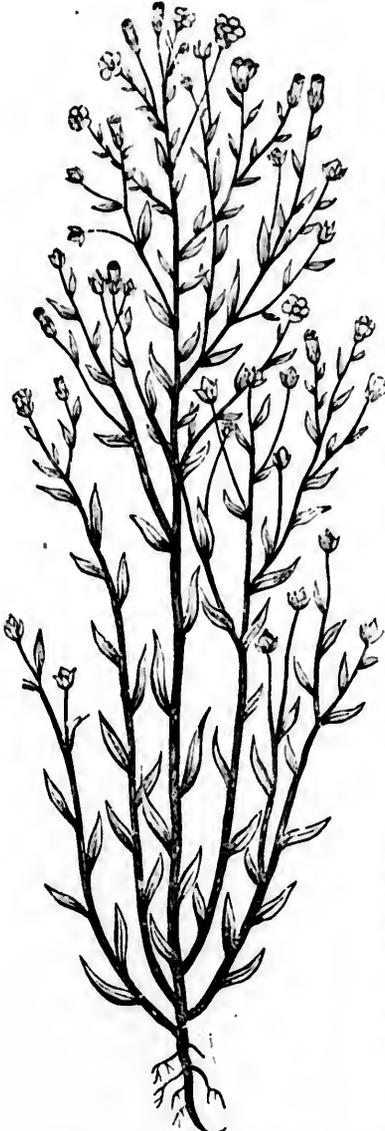


Fig. 2.

for the seed only. These experiments were made on plots of one-tenth of an acre each on land which had been summer fallowed, with the following results:—

Sown 16th May, 40 lbs. seed per acre, ripe 16th August, yield per acre, 19 bush. 26 lbs.

Flax can be grown on the prairie soils of the North-west on first breaking, but usually produces a heavier crop on back-setting or on a clean fallow. To make this clear to those who are unacquainted with the methods of prairie farming, it may be said that the first breaking on prairie sod is made by turning over a wide and shallow furrow about two inches thick. When this is done in the spring, the land is ready for back-setting in the autumn, by which is meant a second ploughing running across the breaking to a depth of about four inches. This cuts the decayed sod, turns it over and covers it with about two inches of fresh soil from below. Back-setting is the usual preparation for a wheat crop. Where flax is sown on first breaking, a seed bed comparatively free from weeds is provided, the farmer derives a revenue from his land the first year, and the crop effectually rots the sod so as to admit of ploughing to the ordinary depth in the autumn.

QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE.

When flax is grown for its seed only, it is usual to sow from two to three pecks per acre, and when thus thinly sown the plants are much branched, as shown in figure 2, and are said to average a larger yield of seed. This, however, seems to require further investigation and the character of the season may influence the results very much. From tests made on the Experimental Farm at Brandon, Man., in 1894, it would appear that heavier seeding may be desirable even when flax is grown