

CANADIAN FLAX

HOW long will Canada continue to pay to other countries annually the enormous sum of over \$4,000,000 for binder twine, linen fabrics, yarns, threads, etc.—on which we pay an import duty of over \$700,000—while the flax fields of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are producing this year (1913) over 2,000,000 tons of flax straw, which represents 400,000 tons of commercial spinnable fibre, all of which is now burned.

If this present waste product which is making a flaming flax field of 1,000,000 acres in the Canadian West were utilized, it would furnish raw material for an industry that would represent an annual output of over \$80,000,000, with only 16,500,000 acres under cultivation, of the 200,000,000 acres available the possibilities in the Flax industry in Western Canada are simply incalculable.

The object of this pamphlet is to enumerate within its limited space as briefly as possible some of the important facts concerning the flax industry, with a view of interesting capital into the great possibilities for the utilization of flax straw that is now a waste product in Western Canada.

The flax industry of this period is commanding marked attention throughout the world and especially in the Dominion of Canada owing largely to the fact that agriculturists have learned by experience that where the same efforts and care are bestowed as are given wheat, oats, corn and other grains, the results probably are more remunerative. From investigation it is found that the whole area, nearly, of Canada is well adapted to the cultivation of flax and that as fine a grade can be produced within its borders as that imported from Russia, Belgium, Great Britain, and other countries. The marked increase in crops in Canada is strongly confirmed by statistics, which show that formerly the production was largely confined to Eastern Canada, while at the present time the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta records about nine-tenths of the entire crop of the Dominion. Its early history we quote from Wm. Saunders, C.M.G., L. L.D., F.R.S.C., Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, Canada: "The cultivation of flax and the manufacture of its fibre date back to a very remote period. The great value of this plant has been known and appreciated for probably five thousand years past. The fact that the Egyptian mummies