

day's work for a man, when the binding and stocking is also included. As it is work that may be done by labouring women and children, where such can be had, there will be found no difficulty in getting it done by contract, at three dollars per acre, exclusive of board and lodging. A machine, to be propelled by horse-power, has been invented for pulling flax, in the neighbouring States, which will, without much difficulty, pull from three to four acres per day. This machine will require a man and a boy to work it, and will cost from £9 to £10 to construct it.

The seed is both difficult and tedious to thrash, when the saving of the fibre is intended. An able-bodied man will not thrash more than six bushels per day; and when given out by contract, including cleaning or winnowing, the usual price paid is ninepence currency per bushel. A machine for thrashing flax can be constructed to be driven by four horse-power, by the use of which four hands will average from forty to fifty bushels per day collectively. If the seed is thrashed by the treading of horses, a man will find no difficulty in thrashing twenty-five bushels per day. But in this case the fibre would be wasted, which, under proper management, is much the most profitable portion of the crop.

An experienced flax-dresser will break and scutch, in a day of ten hours, twenty pounds of marketable flax, or at the rate of two pounds per hour. This is usually, and the most profitably, performed by contract, for both parties, the usual price given being from 2d. to 2½d. per lb. If the most improved machinery be employed in preparing the flax for market, it need not cost more than 1½d. per lb. The expense of rotting, drawing to and from the fields, and the whole work from the time it is thrashed until it is ready to be put on the brake, will not exceed three-farthings per lb. It therefore will be seen that if the whole work be done by hand, by an experienced flax dresser, one who turns everything to good account, and who understands the business in all its departments, that a good article will cost 3d. per lb. to get into market, and that it will be worth just double that sum to be exported.

The seed will require an expense of cultivation, rent of land, &c., and leave a profit

of fifty per cent; and, as has been shown, about the same profit will be realized from the fibre if, it be got out in a proper manner. From the foregoing calculation, it has been pretty clearly shown, that although the flax crop is an expensive one to cultivate, yet it will give a profit of at least fifty per cent. on the capital invested. It will certainly do as much, and a great deal more, than we claimed for bastard fallows: viz., that the crop sown as a preparative crop for wheat, would, in an average of cases, pay the entire expense of cultivating the land, including rent and managing both crops. Flax is rather an exhausting crop on land, and as it gives no return to the soil, it should not be sown more than once in eight or ten years upon the same soil. On good flax and wheat land, it is quite safe to calculate upon thirty bushels of fall wheat per acre, and the crop is almost certain to come in early and escape the rust, and consequently the sample is apt to be fine and good in quality.

CULTIVATION OF HEMP.

Hemp delights in a still richer soil than flax, and when it is not intended to allow the seeds to ripen it may be grown for a number of years in succession on the same soil without a diminution of crop. It is not safe, however, to practice so severe a system of cropping the land with this or any other crop, unless it be on rich alluvial bottoms. It is on such soils where hemp can be the most profitably grown, and the average yield of marketable fibre may be safely reckoned at from eight to ten hundred pounds per acre. To have a good fibre, the crop should be harvested before the seeds are formed. Two bushels of seed per acre will not be found too much in an average of cases; and if the soil be rich, and in a high state of culture, it will be a complete smothering crop, and the ground will be as clean, if not cleaner, than if it had been expensively summer fallowed. An acre of hemp will yield in seed from thirty to forty bushels per acre, but the fibre is worthless for exportation, and can only be used for inferior purposes, for domestic use, when the seed is saved. Hemp seed is worth from one to two dollars per bushel, but the demand, being limited in the extreme, could be supplied by half-a-dozen respectable growers, and therefore it is