

indicate any material advance for the future. Nor has the unhappy American civil war affected prices for agricultural produce; except, perhaps, barley, as was at one time anticipated. The state of exchange and other circumstances, have operated as serious checks to a large and profitable intercourse between these provinces and the United States. It is devoutly to be wished that the deplorable cause which has produced this state of things may be speedily removed.

The present remarkably mild and open season, although rendering intercourse difficult in the country, and in some places quite impracticable for want of sufficient snow, is attended by several solid and important advantages. To the poor in cities it must be felt as a boon, in diminishing the amount of fuel required, an article high in price. The farmer, too, will reap a benefit in his cattle not needing so large a quantity of provender as they would in a more inclement season. This is fortunate, as the stock of hay, roots, &c., is in most parts of the country under an average. A severe and protracted winter must have caused the price of such articles to have risen to a disastrous pitch. As it is, the farmer by judiciously economising his scanty stock of cattle food, will be enabled to push through with comparative ease. His vigilance in this important matter should not relax, as in all probability the longest and severest portion of winter is yet to come. The advantages of feeding stock with a mixture of cut food, cannot be too often impressed on the minds of farmers: in this way the coarser and less valuable kinds are readily consumed. A regular, though small supply of turnips, carrots, mangels, &c., will astonishingly economise hay and keep animals in a healthy and thriving condition. Sheep, especially breeding ewes, will now require special attention, both as regards food and protection, and as the lambing season approaches, additional care should be bestowed. Sheep, although they require to be kept warm and dry, must have plenty of room for exercise, and unrestricted access to free and fresh air. No animal perhaps, so soon deteriorates from confinement as the sheep, and over pampering is almost as injurious as entire neglect. On the whole then

there is reason to hope that with proper attention to the preparation and mixture of food, warmth, cleanliness and ventilation, with *regular feeding*, although it may not be large in amount, nor so good in quality might be desired, the farmer will be able to carry his stock through the winter in a much better condition than was anticipated.

FLAX CULTIVATION.

EDITORS OF THE AGRICULTURIST,—Dear Sir—As it appears from all I read in the *Agriculturist*, and hear from my German and North Ireland neighbors, that the culture of a certain portion of flax each year, would be more profitable to the farmers of Bruce than so much wheat, the question arises, if we grow it will we do with it? To take it sixty miles market in an undressed state certainly would pay. The next question is, if we could induce some person of enterprise and means to buy in a scutching mill, where could it be obtained and what would it cost? what power would take to work it? In short, what amount of capital would it take to set a flax-dressing establishment in operation? And last, but not least, how many acres of flax must we grow annually to make the mill a remunerative investment? If you can suggest some plan upon which we can make flax growing profitable I will use my humble endeavors to get the farmers of Carrick and Krant at it.

I remain yours, &c.,

RICHARD RIVERS, JUNR.
Carrick, Jan. 14th, 1863.

[We answer the questions of our correspondent with pleasure, so far as we are able. The want of a ready market has certainly been the greatest obstacle in the way of the cultivation of flax. Parties who have grown small quantities have found themselves unable to dispose of it at a remunerating price. There is no reason to hope, however, that this difficulty will very shortly be removed. From the high price of flax at present in the British markets, it is not the least doubt that buyers will at present here to gather up what is grown in the country they can only find a sufficient quantity to suit their view. Every farmer therefore should grow some flax with the view of creating the new trade. Besides it always pays to grow a small quantity for home use. Flax seed is valuable for stock and can always be sold readily at a good price. Rowan & Co's scutching machine, manufactured at B