

We have already remarked upon the great value of clover for this latter purpose. Some of the reasons why it is so may be thus briefly stated. Clover takes less from the soil and more from the atmosphere, in proportion to the feeding and manuring value of its products, than most other plants. It has numerous roots, long, bulky stalks, and abundant leaves, each supplying vegetable matter to the soil. A luxuriant growth of clover is an excellent preparation for any and every crop. Its far spreading roots loosen and deepen the soil, and bring to their support and to their surface the elements of fertility below the reach of most other crops. This, too, is the reason why clover delights in a deep fresh soil, and why, after subsoil ploughing, it is so certain to succeed.

THE CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

From the Protectionist.

The cultivation of flax seems to meet with very general favor, probably from the fact that many old country farmers are acquainted with the raising and preparing of that article, and there can be no doubt that if the agriculturists of Canada were assured of a steady demand, the cultivation of flax would be largely engaged in.

In the annual address of the Vice-President of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, Mr. Fergusson thus spoke of the advantages to be derived from the raising of flax in this Province:

"When we examine the trade and customs' returns of the Province published by the Government, we find that cotton goods, in a variety of forms, are annually introduced into the country, not only from England but from the United States, in such quantities, and of so great an amount in value, as to cause astonishment at our supineness in continuing to encourage a foreign material which draws so heavily upon the industrial resources of the country—the annual importations exceeding five millions of dollars. By substituting for cotton, where practicable, a fabric of our own manufacture composed of flax, to supply us in the many uses to which cotton is applied, a great portion of the very large sum of money would be annually saved to the country, and a new branch of industry created among our people and its manufactures, by means of which a new market would be established for a considerable amount of our surplus provisions, and also profitable employment secured for an increased and thriving population."

Of the importance of the article of flax to the manufacturer, as well as to the agriculturist, Professor Wilson in his able lecture alluded to, showed that at that period, "England had at work 168,000 spindles in its manufactures, while the United States had but 50,000," but were, as he remarked "rapidly increasing." And he adds "that out of twenty millions of yards of linen annually manufactured in England, eight millions had been sent to the American continent," showing thereby the importance to us of encouraging the growth and manufacture of this most useful material. And the learned gentleman, in showing the large amount of foreign raw flax used, further says, "that for the production of the quantity of raw material annually imported into England, it requires the growth of 800,000 acres of land.

It is ascertained that the flax plant will grow to perfection where cereal crops can be cultivated; and with even less exhausting effects to the soil than that of wheat; but the apparent difficulty to the grower, is the want of necessary modern machinery for producing the putrefactive fermentations, or rotting process; which might be of such construction as to be capable of removal from place to place, as most of our threshing machines are, and by which means the raw material could be cheaply prepared for the manufacturer.

Should its manufacture into the finer and more costly articles of commerce, not be obtainable at present, for want of enterprising capitalists among us, or through a deficiency of labor, by proper encouragement given to flax culture for export only—now that we have ocean steamers coming to our very doors—a new opening for the enterprise of our people presents itself, which would be found more remunerative than the growing of wheat under the present circumstances; and its adaptability for exportation when merely rough dressed or scutched, and being much less liable to injury in its transport across the seas than cereal crops, gives it a decided advantage for ocean transit.