

education is thrown away upon a farmer. If our farmers are content to jog along in the old way, as their fathers have done before them, it is pretty certain that they will always be able to make out a living, but we cannot hope that Canada will ever add much to the general stock of agricultural knowledge, unless we impart to our sons a higher education than has usually fallen to the lot of the Canadian farmer. There is an idea abroad that farmers have no need for a classical education. I should like to know the reason why. I think, sir, they have just as good reason to study mathematics and Latin, and Greek, too, as any body else. If the study of these expands the mind of the merchant, it will expand the mind of the young farmer, too. It enables the physician and the lawyer to comprehend the technicalities of their profession, it will familiarize the young farmer with the correct meaning and the correct use of his own language, and that is a very important matter. That much depends upon the ambition of the young men themselves, we see every day exemplified. If one of the farmer's sons expresses a desire to become a doctor or a lawyer, with what alacrity do not the parents make many sacrifices in order that he may obtain the best education the Province affords? Is it not evident that we live in a country pre-eminently agricultural? Is the time not drawing near when we may say of doctors and lawyers, without the slightest disparagement to their professions, that *we have enough of them?* Then what in the name of common sense is to become of our young men of ambition? Carried away with the false idea that the quiet, plodding life of the farmer is too humiliating to *them*; already some of them have found their way to Australia, to California and Carriboo; there for a while they toil like galley slaves; they come back again—they tell us “*There is no place like Canada.*” I would only say, then, to the farmers of Grenville, give your farmer boys as good an education as you can afford. By so doing you will most surely contribute to *their* happiness through life, and to the progress and prosperity of our common country.

I have now only to thank you for your kind attention to my remarks, and to bespeak from the farmers of Grenville now before me, a cordial and unanimous support for their agricultural society. In doing this you place a powerful AGENT for good in the hands of its directors, one which will do much for the cause of improvement around you. May the efforts of the South Grenville Agricultural Society to improve the agriculture of this part of Canada, be crowned with success.

FLAX CULTIVATION.

EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST.—DEAR SIR,—Now that spring is fast approaching, when farming operations must necessarily soon commence, it is to be hoped our farmers will give

flax that attention it so well deserves, and those who were disappointed last spring, owing to the great drought, must not fail to make the attempt again, knowing well, as they do, all other crops suffered materially also.

While comparatively little is doing in the Home district, other parts of Western Canada are making good use of their time; several new scutching mills have been erected within the last two years, and in no instance, when the farmers can avail themselves of this facility for preparing their flax for market, do they fail in taking advantage of it. At Flora, where a small mill was erected a few months ago, no less than 70 acres were grown in that neighborhood last year, and from the profit derived from it over wheat, the probabilities are we shall hear of 700 acres being cultivated in that locality this incoming summer. Several of Rowan's mills, in addition to those imported last year by the Canadian Government, have also been brought to the Province by private individuals. Several new companies are springing up, not only for the purpose of scutching and preparing the raw material for a foreign market, but for the purpose of spinning and weaving.

The success of the Messrs. Perine Bros., of Waterloo, is a convincing proof of the profit attending this new branch of industry. In addition to four extensive scutching mills in different parts of that county, they have erected at a very heavy cost a large manufactory in the village of Doon, on the river Speed, with machinery for spinning and weaving, as well as scutching flax for the farmers. This is a guarantee for the farmer, he need not be afraid of the want of a market in future. Mr. McCrea, of Guelph, has also become a purchaser of the raw material, and will, no doubt, extend his operations to other market towns as well as Guelph, as soon as there is a sufficient quantity of demands on the market.

During the last few weeks I have had communications I may say from all parts of the Province, inquiring where seed can be procured. In reply I have recommended parties to the house of Messrs. Lyman, Elliott & Co., Toronto, and the various flax millers in the Western part of the Province, for sufficient for the years' sowing, but in all cases, when it is possible, the best imported Riga seed should be used; and it is to be hoped there will be sufficient demand in another year to warrant our merchants in making it an article of import. In the eastern townships in Lower Canada the farmers are going into it with a will, the British American Land Company, at Sherbrooke, having already secured one of the mills from the Government. Their active Commissioner, Mr. Heneker, has also sent home for a large quantity of Riga seed to distribute to the farmers on their lands, and to others desirous of obtaining it. This example would be well worthy of im-