

fellow subjects in every part of the Empire, the death of a Prince so distinguished by rare intellectual gifts and eminent virtues, we feel that his loss will be more especially deplored by those Societies in our father land which, like this Association, have for their object the advancement of agricultural science.

To the distinguished patronage and enlightened judgment of His Royal Highness, was due much of the wonderful development and rapid progress which have so particularly distinguished British agriculture within late years.

Nor can we forget, that the Royal Agricultural Society of England has, by his lamented death, been deprived of the invaluable counsel and direction of a President, whose special knowledge of the subjects embraced within the sphere of the Society's labours, and varied acquaintance with the Industrial arts in general, rendered his presence in the chair of invaluable moment to the Society and the country at large, during this important year.

We would humbly express the hope, that the affectionate appreciation of His Royal Highness's many and exalted virtues entertained by all classes, and the loving sympathy of your Majesty's loyal subjects in this as in all other parts of your Majesty's dominions, may in some measure assuage the intensity of your Majesty's affliction. And we fervently pray that Almighty God may of His grace and goodness, support and comfort your Majesty and your Royal family, and that your Majesty may long be preserved to reign over the great Empire committed to your charge.

(Signed) E. W. THOMSON,

President Board of Agriculture, Chairman.

Toronto, January 30th, 1862.

Flax Culture.

LONDONDERRY, Jan. 27th, 1862.

To the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since my arrival in Ireland I was glad to find the prospects of the linen trade had very much revived. The very high prices cotton has reached within a few months no doubt was the cause of this, and the demand for flax, and desire on the part of the manufacturers for its cultivation in any country where they may be able to obtain it quite equal to last year, when I was here a little after this time. It was most fortunate we had not got the scutching mills the government had ordered before I came, as the Messrs Rowan Bro. & Co. have made a great improvement in them since, and they are now beyond a doubt the best mill, taking into consideration the saving in skilled labor, in Ireland. Parties have been here from Courtrie and tested them, and have ordered twenty of

them to be forwarded immediately. The six for Canada I hope to get shipped by the steamer of the 13th proximo, and will also endeavor if possible to get a hand sent with them or soon after who will understand setting them up and attending them. Too great efforts cannot be used to get the farmers to sow flax this season, the prices being at present and likely to be most remunerative. No effort should be wanting on the part of the active members of the Agricultural Societies throughout the country to encourage the farmers to sow all they can this coming spring, and it is well for those to know who may not be near a mill for a season or two, that as soon as they take the seed off, and have the straw properly dried on the grass, they may safely stack it up, put into any shed or barn, only keep it dry, and the fibre will improve the longer it is kept in this state, in truth for years. The prices too of Riga seed are advancing, from the great demand at present. It is worth in this market 43s. sterling per barrel of about 4 bushels, and it is expected it will be 50s. before sowing time. Should any one near Toronto wish to send for what they may require your enterprising townsman Rice Lewis, Esq., said he would import whatever he thought would be required for this spring's sowing; but parties in Guelph, Woodstock, and other places who have taken a lively interest in the cultivation of flax, intended what I left to forward an order here for what they wanted, and I would take care fresh seed was chosen for the purpose.

I am glad to say that it is thought here as in England that we will have no war.

The prospects for emigration this season must be better than I expected.

Yours most truly,

JOHN A. DONALDSON,

Canada Government Emigrant Agent.

Rowan's Flax Scutching Machine

We give the subjoined wood engravings represent this machine, several of which the government are about importing for the use of cultivators of flax in this province. We beg to refer to a communication from Jno. A. Donaldson, Esq., our energetic emigration agent in Ireland, on the subject in this number of journal. The growth of flax will doubtless attract a largely increased share of attention this spring, and we shall make it a point to give the information in our power on the subject. The subjoined description is from the *Mechanics Magazine*, published in England.