

## FLAX.

Many interesting selected strains of flax are being tested. The experiments have not yet been carried on long enough to enable one to draw definite conclusions as to which are the best sorts. One of the new selections, called Novelty, stands at the head of the list this year, with a yield at the rate of a little over 16 bushels per acre. The season was very unfavourable for flax, as the germination of the seed was seriously retarded by the drought.

## EXPERIMENTAL STATION, CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

J. A. Clarke, B.S.A., Superintendent.

### SEASONAL NOTES.

The season of 1914 was most favourable for the growth of cereals in Prince Edward Island. The ground was well covered with snow during most of the previous winter. The weather was remarkably mild throughout the most of March. The first week of April was cold and the weather remained backward during the whole month, and the first two weeks of May, there being quite a heavy snowfall on May 11. The last half of May was very favourable for work and for plant growth. Seeding commenced on May 18. Owing to frequent showers, cold nights, and the absence of any really hot days, vegetation remained very backward during June. Hoar-frost occurred the night of July 1. This was followed by very favourable weather for the growing crops during July and August. The grain though very late ripened well the last of August and the first week in September. Daubeney oats were cut August 20, but cutting did not become general until the close of the month. September was the harvest month and the weather was all that could be desired.

The season has been the most favourable since 1910 for cereals and the crops in general have quite equalled that banner year.

Certain areas included in the three-year rotation commenced in 1913 on the land available for uniform test plots of cereals were found to be unsatisfactory and were cut out. These will be used for multiplying plots and for decoying birds away from the test areas. Owing to this rearrangement it became necessary to adopt a four-year rotation as follows: roots, wheat and barley plots, clover, oat plots, in order to get room for the cereals that we thought should be tested. Two-thirds of the area devoted to oat plots were badly infested with couch grass which caused low returns from some of the most promising sorts. The system of duplicate plots was continued.

### UNIFORM TEST PLOTS OF CEREALS.

The spring wheat was sown May 20, the oats May 22, and the barley on May 30, quite a little later than average sowings. Paths and plots were sown with grasses and clovers. The plots were rogued carefully and the loose smut of wheat removed by hand, every precaution being taken to keep the different sorts of grain up to the highest standard of purity. Formalin was used as a fungicide for bunt (stinking smut) and the loose smuts of oats and barley with satisfactory results. The grain grew very strong. There was considerable rust observed and many of the varieties of oats lodged badly.

Great numbers of plant lice were observed. On August 13 it became necessary to check them on the field peas with kerosene emulsion. This remedy proved very effective.

### SPRING WHEAT.

Chelsea (one of the softer sorts of wheat) was first with an average of 53½ bushels per acre. The next five in order were Early Red Fife, Huron, Stanley, Marquis and Red Fife. The average yield of these six varieties was 41 bushels and 13 pounds per acre.