

should be stooked as soon after pulling as possible, and never allowed to remain over night unstooked, except in settled weather. The stooking should go on at the same time as the pulling, as, if flax is allowed to get rain while on the ground, its color is injured. A well-trained stooker will put up the produce of a statute acre or more, in good order, in a day, with two boys or girls to hand him the bunches. The flax should be handed with the tops to the stooker. The handfuls, as pulled, are set up, resting against each other, the root ends spread well out, and the tops joining like the letter A. The stooks are made eight to ten feet long, and a short strap keeps the ends firm. The stooks should be very narrow on the top, and thinly put up, so that they may get the full benefit of the weather. In six or eight days at most, after being pulled, the flax should be ready for tying up in sheaves of tee size of corn sheaves. It is then ricked, and allowed to stand in the field until the seed is dry enough for stacking. To build the rick, lay two poles parallel on the ground, about a foot asunder, with a strong upright pole at each end. The flax is then built the length of a sheaf in thickness or breadth. The bottom poles should be laid north and south, so that the sun shall get at both sides of the rick during the day. In building, the sheaves should be laid tops and roots alternately, built seven to eight feet high, and finished on the top by laying a single row of sheaves lengthwise, or across the others, and then another row as before, but with the tops all the same way, which gives a slope to throw off rain, and finished by putting on the top a little straw tied with a rope. In this way, if properly built, it will stand secure for months. It can be stacked at leisure, or put in a barn, the seed taken off during the winter, and the flax steeped in the following May; or it may be kept stacked, without receiving any injury, for two or three years, or even longer.

LIN RAMÉ (STICKED FLAX).

In the environs of Tournay, in Belgium, flax is grown of a most superior quality, from which Brussels lace is made. The expense of obtaining this quality of flax is nothing when compared with its great value. In favorable seasons it is sold in the green state before pulling, at from £50 to £60 stg., per acre.

E. F. Deman gives a description of the process in his treatise on flax.

The land is prepared like a garden plot, having been fertilized and enriched for several years previously. The seed used is the best Riga, five bushels of which are sown to an English acre, after which it is "Ramé" or stucked, in the following manner :—

Forked pieces of wood are driven into the ground, forming squares; upon these small poles are laid at a height of about eight inches from the ground, and on these poles, thus disposed, branches of small wood are placed. The object of this process is to keep the flax from falling upon the ground, which it would inevitably do without this precaution, in consequence of the great pliancy and delicacy of the plant, which grows to a great height.

The flax is pulled as soon as the seed begins to form, and therefore the seed is entirely sacrificed. The handfuls, when pulled, are set in circles about five feet in circumference. Poles are previously driven into the ground, forming centres, around which the handfuls are set erect; upon the top of the poles are placed caps of straw, which, spreading downwards, cover the whole of each circle from exposure to the atmosphere, and forming, as it were, a series of small huts. In five or six days it is tied in small bundles.