

We are indebted to the politeness of Captain ELMES STEELE, M.P.P., for the following communication on the prices given for hemp and flax at the Provincial Penitentiary, Kingston:—

PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY,
16th October, 1843.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, and I beg to inform you, in compliance with your request, that the following are the quantities of Hemp and Manilla purchased by me, and manufactured for the benefit of this institution, during the years stated against each:—

1839—1 ton clean Russia Hemp, \$245 per ton.	
cut gr. lb.	
19 1 16 Manilla, - - - 150 "	
ton cut. lb.	
1 1 0 23 Sisal, - - - 140 "	
6777 lbs. Manilla, - - - 147 1/2 "	
2164 lbs. Prussian, - - - 225 "	
735 lbs. do. dressed cts. 12 1/2 per lb.	
783 lbs. Cordilla, - - - \$115 per ton.	
2424 lbs. Sun, - - - 127 1/2 "	
2338 lbs. Cordilla Flax cts. 8 1/2 per lb.	
2255 lbs. Kentucky, - - - \$150 per ton	
613 lbs. Jute, - - - 85 "	
1 ton Riga, - - - 230 "	
cut gr. lb.	
1840—19 1 20 Manilla, - - - 142 1/2 "	
8616 lbs. do. - - - 140 "	
1276 lbs. do. dressed, cts. 12 1/2 per lb.	
1368 lbs. Bombay, - - - \$130 per ton.	
cut. lb.	
8 0 12 Sun, - - - 115 "	
3 tons Codilla, - - - 72 1/2 "	
2 1/2 cwt. clean Russia, - - - 180 "	
tons cut gr. lb.	
3 1 0 13 Kentucky, - - - 130 "	
1843—0 19 2 15 Amer. dressed 150 "	
2727 lbs. do. water rotted, 150 "	
ton gr. lb.	
1 0 1 8 Russia, clean, 200 "	
4647 lbs. Manilla, - - - 145 "	

The only quantity of Canada Hemp offered for sale here, was a small parcel of 114 1/2 lbs., in 1840, for which I gave 6d. per lb., with a view to encourage future supplies, as it was in an extremely clean state, and fit for immediate use, without further labour. In purchases of hemp, of this latter description, every thing would depend on the state in which it was brought here, as well as the market rates, at which hemp could be purchased elsewhere.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obed't servant,

H. SMITH, Warden.

E. STEELE, Esq., M. P. P., &c.

We feel satisfied that the Canadian farmers will not fail in embracing the opportunity here presented, in furnishing an article of their own growth, which may be profitably done at much lower prices than those annexed to the different descriptions of fibres mentioned in the foregoing table.

In conversation with subscribers to *The Cultivator*, we are happy to notice that numbers intend to enter largely into the business of growing both these plants—some to the extent of ten acres.

The English market is open to us, if we have only good sense to avail ourselves of it. *The Farmer's Herald*, for September, in recommending the English farmers to enter extensively into the cultivation of flax makes use of the following words.—“The circumstance of our being at this time importers of flax to the extent of 80,000 tons; and of seed, to that of 3,200,000 bushels and upwards

(besides oil cake), has awakened us to a due sense of our situation, and shown us really how much money is annually lost to us as farmers in the omission of the flax crop from our course of tillage.

As soon as associations for the promotion of agricultural improvement can be formed on correct principles, so soon will the cultivation of hemp and flax be considered a matter of great importance to agriculture.

We expect that some hundreds of acres will be sown in the Home District the ensuing summer, through the agency of the Home District Board of Agriculture.

THE CENTRAL NEW YORK FARMER AND OURSELVES.

The Central New York Farmer, published at the flourishing village of Rome, is one of the best practical works on agriculture now extant. It has a corps of editors, consisting of three of the most talented practical farmers that the empire state can produce. We always welcome this journal with a degree of delight and satisfaction rarely produced by any other work of a similar character, because we feel confident, that from its well stored columns of useful matter, we shall at all times be enabled to glean something new and useful. One of the editors, sometime since, had occasion to make allusion to our remarks on the Home District Ploughing Match, in which he invited us to purchase one of the light and useful ploughs, which are of modern invention in his neighbourhood, which he felt confident, would prove a great acquisition to the heavy ploughs in use in Canada. We are aware that there are certain implements of husbandry in use in the neighbouring states, that might be profitably imported here for patterns, but we at the same time feel confident, that the farmers of the United States, are twenty years behind the farmers of the Home District, in their ploughing operations and implements; and if the Editors of the *Central New York Farmer* feels at all anxious about the matter, we would be happy to direct his attention to a plough that is manufactured in Toronto, that would prove of an incalculable advantage to the enterprising farmers of his neighbourhood. While we recommend the Editors of the *Farmer* to encourage the introduction of better ploughs, in their spheres of usefulness, we would, at the same time, wish our friends, who take the management of Canadian Agricultural Societies to take proper steps to encourage a better system of ploughing, by importing better implements, and also importing and encouraging proficient mechanics, who may construct these implements in their several neighbourhoods.

AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.

Mr. Hiram Bigelow, of the township of Tecumseth, has lately invented a machine for drying wheat, which is considered by competent judges to be a most important invention. Mr. Bigelow has secured a patent for Canada, East and West, and intends to purchase an exclusive right for their sale in the United

States. This will cost one hundred pounds in all, which shows conclusively, that the inventor is most sanguine that his machine will be brought into successful and general use. It is confidently asserted, that spring wheat may be passed through this apparatus, and prepared in the shortest notice for packing in barrels, which may be sent to the English market in as perfect condition as flour from winter wheat. It will prepare one thousand bushels in a day, of twelve hours. The price of Mr. B's. machine will be £50, delivered in any part of the province. If it will perform in a perfect manner, all that its inventor warrants, each extensive miller in the province will be benefitted, to a large extent, by their use. Any communication on this subject, addressed to Hiram Bigelow, Bond Head P. O., Home District, will receive due attention.

LARGE YIELD OF WHEAT.

The Tennessee Agriculturist says that HILL CARTER, Esq. on James River, Virginia, from 160 acres of land cut 5,280 bushels of wheat; and the same paper states that a gentleman in New York had 52 bushels of wheat to the acre, on a clover field that had been turned over, and the wheat sowed on the inverted sod and harrowed in. The editor further remarks that when the sod is turned over and allowed to remain undisturbed, the ground will remain moist and loose, till all the vegetable matter is exhausted; but, as is too often the case, if the sod be broken to pieces, and exposed to the sun, much that is calculated to benefit the wheat, will be evaporated and lost, and the land will be more apt to run together by heavy rains.

We agree with the *Agriculturist*, that this is a good plan, and one which we have more than once highly recommended. It is practiced in England and Belgium with a wonderful success, indeed, naked summer fallows are but seldom made. The press or roller would be of great service to the young wheat plant grown on inverted clover sod.

CALEDONIA SPRINGS.

Too much cannot be said in favour of the medicinal properties of the *Caledonia waters*; and as they are not so highly valued by a large portion of the Canadian population as they should be, and in many sections of the country they are even unknown,—we feel a pleasure in copying the following extract from a correspondent of the *Rochester Monroe Democrat*, of the 10th of October, 1843:—

“I arrived here about a week since, and have been so much delighted with the place, as to be unable, as yet, to tear myself away from it. Its retired situation, its neat, substantial buildings, the cleanly appearance of its streets, the beauty of the surrounding scenery but especially the superior efficacy of its waters in the cure of chronic diseases, rheumatism, liver complaints, dyspepsia, and other such ailments that flesh is heir to—all conspire to render it a place peculiarly attractive to the man, a pleasure as well as to the invalid.

William Parker, Esq., the proprietor of the Springs, is a gentleman of much public spirit.