

the idea that flax does not require a rich soil, and that once ploughing is as good as thrice, and also that three pecks of seed is sufficient for an acre. After a long course of experiments, upon a very large scale, with this crop, the editor can confidently state that it is useless to expect a good paying crop unless the land be remarkably fertile and in a high state of cultivation, and it is also necessary to sow from six to eight pecks of seed per acre.

The best preparation of land for flax is an old broken up meadow, which had previously been cropped with oats or pea e. These are common in the new townships, especially as it is there the common practice to sow down the land with the cultivated grasses with the first crop, and in the lapse of eight or ten years a large proportion of the hard-wood stumps may, without much difficulty, be extracted; and as soon as this can be done, the land should be ploughed either late in autumn or very early in the spring, to be sown with oats or pease. If it be intended that the second crop should be flax, directly after harvest the land should be ploughed, so that it may have a second furrow just before the setting in of winter. In the spring, another ploughing should be given as early as possible; and that, with the harrowing that will be required to bring the land into fine tilth, will be the cultivation that would be requisite to give a very large return of flax. Early sowing is important, as it affords time for the roots of the plants to strike a good depth into the ground before the sun has sufficient power to seriously injure the plants. In this northern climate, about the 25th of April is a suitable period for sowing flax. But as seasons vary, and as there is also from one to three weeks difference in the climate between the extreme Western and Eastern portions of the Province, a better guide to denote the period for sowing will be found by making it a point to sow just when the indigenous or common red plums begin to show blossom. Earlier than this might expose the crop to damage from spring frosts, and any delay after that period would be prejudicial to the crop, both in point of quality and quantity, of seed and fibre.

If a liberal quantity of seed be sown, say seven pecks per acre, and the soil be in a rich

and clean state of cultivation, it will not require more than one ploughing after the removal of the flax crop, to prepare the ground for fall wheat. Flax, when sown thick upon a good soil, will prove a thoroughly smothering crop to such weeds and grasses as would be injurious to the wheat. Indeed, upon such a soil, fall wheat will prove a more abundant crop than after a naked fallow: which result repeated experiments have satisfactorily proved.

Where root crops are pretty extensively grown, it would be found that flax might be made to follow in rotation, with much advantage and profit, as a preparative crop for autumn wheat. The manure applied to the soil for the potato, turnip, and other root crops, would pretty thoroughly undergo decomposition before the flax crop would have taken root, and at the same time its properties would not be so much exhausted by the root crops, as to lessen the yield of flax. Unfermented barn yard manure is not suitable for this crop, and where it cannot be made to follow an old clover or timothy sod, as already described, it should be sown after a crop, for which the land had been liberally manured. In neither of those preparations can be had, then the richest and most highly cultivated portions of the farm should be selected for it; and when the plants get a few inches above ground, a top dressing of salt, gypsum, house ashes, and soot, may be applied in about equal quantities, at the rate of four bushels per acre. The house ashes might with advantage form a much larger proportion of the mixture than the other ingredients. The object in sowing it after the plants are up, is, to expel or destroy any insects that may infest the crop: where these do not exist to a serious extent it may be applied at or about the same time that the seed is sown. A top dressing, such as is here recommended, would probably add one-third to the produce of both fibre and seed, and, besides, the ground would be greatly benefitted for the wheat crop, by being thickly covered with a thrifty growth of plants, by which weeds and grasses would not have a chance to take root and grow.

The business of pulling a crop of flax is rather a serious one in a thinly settled country like this. One rood per day is a fair average