

flax of Canada, that many of the farmers here have for years past been growing wheat on the same lands, until as was once the case with the potatoe fields of the South and West of Ireland, the soil has been seriously deteriorated in its productive powers. The change, therefore, from the incessant cropping with one description of grain to the rotary system caused by the introduction of flax-growing would benefit the soil hardly less than it would advantage the cultivator.

It has been said that the labour is still too cheap in Canada to admit of any remarkable success in the growth of the article that requires so much attention during its culture; but those who argue thus forget that the Canadian colonist is the monarch of the soil on which he has settled himself. The land is his own property, released direct from the Crown; he does not owe fealty to any landlord. Where he stands, within the limits of his farm, he is its chief; the extent of local taxation does not exceed a fractional per-centage on the value of his land, and, as to the nominal price of labor, we grant it is far above the value in this country. As a result, however, it may be stated that an able-bodied man will do as much work there in the course of a day as is usually performed here in six and a-half. Agricultural energy is pushed forth with great spirit; in fact, the farmer and his natives seem to work with steam at high pressure.

Then the Canadian flax-grower has so many advantages in his favor—if he has lands which contain all the elements so peculiarly required for the food of the plant—we do not see why he should not be able to produce a quality of fibre which would fully remunerate him for his outlay and enterprise. What with the recent improvements in the machinery for spinning yarn, and the remarkable success that has attended the introduction of steam to the linen loom, there should be no limit to the quantity of flax that could be worked up in the United Kingdom, and that flax produced in such amplitude and cheapness as would give full play to the demand for the wear of linen as the article of clothing.

For some years past, the supply of flax actually been falling off in the country. In 1853 there were 1,882,400 cwts. of foreign flax imported, and 867,000 cwts. growing in Ireland. Last year the imports only amounted to 484,300 cwts., and the produce of Irish flax did not exceed 650,000 cwts. While this was going on in the supplies of flax, the supply of cotton rose from 8,500,000 cwts. to 9,000,000 cwts.

The India Flax Society has gone to work in earnest, and we doubt not, will be able to make large accessions to existing supplies; and, notwithstanding all this, there will still be a wild competition for operations; and that field might be well cultivated. Were the farmers in that colony to cultivate annually three hundred thousand acres of

flax, every single stone-weight of the produce could be worked up by Irish spindles alone. We would request the special attention of spinners, manufacturers, and bleachers to this subject. It is a vital one now, more than ever it was before. With the ports of France opening to us, Belgium will also take largely of our yarns and linens.

The Hanse Town, with their half million of people, took last year ten million yards of our linen cloth; and Holland with its population only equal to that of the city of London, took three and a half million pounds of yarn. Other States are following in the wake of these Free-trade countries; but, to enable our capitalists to take full advantage of the favorable opening for yarns and goods, there must be a full supply of cheap material. Canada is now within nine days' run of the Irish coast; facility of transport is, consequently, on the side of the enterprise; and, if the flaxspinners and merchants of Belfast and other seat of the manufacture join with the Canadian Government in setting the thing afloat, the project cannot fail of success. So far as we can learn from merchants conversant with the subject in Canada, as well as from the Government agent now in Ireland, the farmers require little more than something like certainty; but, if they produce flax of a certain quality, they will be sure of getting a ready market for it.

Numbers of North of Ireland farmers are located in York, of which Toronto is the capital. These men will only require a short education to enable them to grow flax at least as well as their relatives who still reside in the old country. If farmers here can raise thirty-five to forty stones of clean fibre to the statute acre, Canadian settlements will soon be able to take as much out of their adopted soil.

Utility of Birds in Defending Farm Crops against the Attacks of Insects.

The harvest this season in France, it is said, will fall much short of former averages; and one of the principal causes assigned is the increasing destruction of late years of the smaller kinds of birds, for the various forms of French cookery. It is well known that some kinds of birds in particular feed on the larvæ of insects, which if allowed to mature often prove injurious and sometimes destructive to the crops both of the farm and the garden. In matters of this kind nature has beneficently established a wise system of self adjustment and compensation, whose economy it is unwise and often fatally injurious to disturb. Rookeries in Europe have sometimes been complained of by the neighboring farmers