

connection with the utilization of western straw were, it is to be regretted, compelled to discontinue their investigations, owing, as they say, to the establishment of the Scientific Research Board by the Dominion Government, they thought they were trespassing on the ground of work undertaken by the Government. Dr. Howe, who was chief of that organization, the Arthur D. Little Company, Chemists, Engineers of Boston, Mass., who has a branch in Canada, writing me on March 24, last, said:

I was pleased to receive your letter of the 13th and also the publication in which your continued efforts to obtain government support are recorded.

We investigated very carefully all that has been done in an effort to use seed flax straw for cordage and textile purposes and so far have had no reasons to change our opinion that such utilization is not economical. We still believe in our paper process and one of these days hope to find a satisfactory way for commercializing that work.

These are the conclusions of Dr. Howe after very careful investigation. Dr. Howe, at that time, also gave a sample of linen paper produced from that pulp, which paper is in quality suitable for the finest bond or bank note paper. Unbleached and in its natural condition and colour, it is a paper of very great tensile strength. It seems to me that with the knowledge already at hand there are very great possibilities for the development of the industry in the utilization of western flax straw. The article that I have just referred to from the Canadian Textile Journal appears to have the authority of the Agricultural Statistical Bulletin of the Dominion Government and therefore I conclude that the statements made therein carry the stamp of official approval.

In conclusion, we are very anxious to develop the industry more extensively in Canada. We have been able to show that the area in which flax can be grown is not limited to Western Ontario, where it has reached its greatest development of recent years. Splendid fibre has been grown in the Annapolis Valley in the province of Nova Scotia. Different districts of the province of Quebec, as well as British Columbia, in the Fraser Valley and other districts, have demonstrated that they also can grow a very fine quality of fibre, and in view of the enormous value of production at the present time it seems to me that now is the psychological moment to bend every effort towards attaining the maximum of production. In the resolution I point out the desirability of establishing demonstration stations in the areas where flax for fibre

is grown. Surely if new and modern machinery is essential in the scutching mills, if new processes of retting by water tanks and other means is necessary to the better development of the industry, is it not incongruous that a demonstration mill should be established at the Experimental Farm three or four hundred miles away from the people whom it is going to serve. I do not know, but I do not think I am very far astray when I say that this demonstration mill has never cost this Government one cent. The profits accruing from a mill doing this work, even as it is doing, would be sufficient, I think, to cover the entire overhead cost. If the Government would establish a mill in the district where fibre is grown for the benefit of farmers and millers alike and try and improve the present methods of production, it would be a very great aid to the people who are now engaged in a very worthy industry. I do not think it would cost the Government anything, because the building of a mill of this kind is not a very expensive matter, and the machinery itself is likewise inexpensive. We want to apply the newest and most up-to-date methods so that we can put our fibre on the market in the very best condition. Individuals are not so well able to investigate new processes of this kind as the Government. It is really a research problem, and the Government of this country has already adopted a policy of research on very broad lines, and is lending considerable assistance to research work generally. It seems to me that the only way in which the industry can reach its proper development is by the Government assisting and co-operating with the producers and helping them to solve what are really research problems. Howard Fraleigh, of Forest, up in the county of Lambton, has been carrying on research work more or less for the past five or six years, and he would take a greater pride in producing a hank of fibre that could beat fibre growing in any other part of the world than in making \$100,000. He lives and sleeps and dreams of flax. He is an enthusiast on the subject, and is well posted, but even his experiments have not been carried to the point where he can say to the growers: We will abandon dew retting in favour of tank retting, even though tank retting increases the value of fibre from \$400 to \$600 per ton. Suppose as a result of an investigation which might cost even \$8,000 or \$10,000, we were able to add \$600 per ton to the value of the fibre produced in this country. That would mean an enormous economic gain to the country, and would be a tremendous