

our farmers, especially the township of Howard, make a very large quantity of cheese, to the extent of several tons per annum.

The Directors feel assured that the improving prospects in our productions are a source of congratulation, and we may venture to say that few, if any, counties in this Province shows more durable improvements. The farms in Kent show an increasingly neater and more cultivated appearance than formerly, and a better description of dwellings of brick and frame houses are annually taking the place of the old log hut.

The following observations by Messrs G. W. Foott and David Wilson were ordered to be appended to the annual report, and forwarded to the Board of Agriculture:

Flax—Mr. Foott writes: "In answer to your question enquiring how the flax seed the Board of Agriculture distributed last year succeeded with me, I beg to state that not having received the seed in time it was sown much too late in the season. However, with this great drawback, it grew well, the severe frost of the 7th of June, which destroyed all my wheat, rye, corn, and potatoes, and greatly damaged timothy and clover, did not affect the flax in the least.

The soil and climate of this county appear to me particularly adapted to the growth of flax. The land must be well prepared and clean; but before the flax can to any extent be grown here, farmers must have information as to the proper mode of retting or rotting, the necessary machinery within reach, to prepare it for market, and then the market and probable price per ton. With this information and these facilities, I have no doubt flax would be extensively grown in this county. But unless the farmers are instructed and assisted, and understand that the crop will pay, I fancy little progress will be made.

The government should, in my opinion, (and properly recommended, I believe would) give the necessary information promulgated, particularly through Kent, for the reason already given, and supply the necessary machinery, which is by no means expensive, and might also readily find out what the farmers might expect for a fair sample per ton at the railroad depot.

In Ireland the crop is failing, and has been for some years. The linen manufacturers of that country are now turning their attention to India to get a supply. Cheap labour there

would be the only advantage over Canada. We have climate, soil, and distance in our favour. The value of flax in Ireland ranges about 20 guineas per ton.

From the above you may be enabled to shape your report, and I would recommend the society to apply to the Provincial Agricultural Board for practical information, which would enable the Canadian farmer to understand the mode of culture and preparation, particularly the mode of rotting other than steeping in water; as a failure in the commencement would have the effect of discouraging many, and thus prevent them undertaking the growth of an article which would pay better than any crop in Canada.

Sheep.—Mr. David Wilson, of the township of Harwick, whose experience in sheep husbandry has extended over twelve years, gives in the following statement: "In selecting a stock of store ewes, see that they are of pure breed, young, strong, and healthy. I prefer the large Leicesters to all others, but be sure to get no more than you can take good care of. Let them be in good condition before going to the ram, and be very particular in your choice of one, for it is upon him your main dependence lies in the improvement of your flock. 30 ewes are a sufficient number for one ram to serve. Do not let them fall off in flesh after they become pregnant; the day you do so, you greatly, if not irreparably injure their chances of weathering through the spring successfully. When winter sets in provide them with a good warm and well ventilated house, with proper racks and troughs to feed in. I feed on hay and beans, and all the water they wish to drink. I have a flock of 36 ewes; they have drank as much as twelve patent pails of water each day during the time the ground was covered with snow. I gave a good supply of hay and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a quart of beans a day to each sheep. I prefer the above feed to roots, as our climate is too cold for the latter. I sheared 31 last June, 18 of which were raising 23 lambs; the average weight per fleece was within a small fraction of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., as a reference to Messrs. McKeough's books, of Chatham, will prove to be correct. From the produce of 31 head I have realized \$135, and have 36 left. All those engaged in sheep husbandry may not be as lucky as I have been, for this cause: the great mistake in regard to sheep is in not keeping them well enough; and the great