

(For the Agricultural Journal)

FLAX.—BY AGRICOLA.

I now propose making a few further remarks on Flax, and, as I do not intend troubling you with long articles, I may address you frequently. My object is to keep the subject before the people, and to give them a *monthly hint*.

We must not be discouraged because our fellow-countrymen are so listless to all agricultural improvements. The Belfast Society at first began with but one mill—now, there are twenty-five mills in Belfast, and from fifty to sixty thousand persons employed in the trade. The objection that Flax exhausts the ground, ought not to be considered a very serious one. If the flax be steeped in a pit about ten feet deep, and, after the flax is removed, this pit should be filled with weeds and bog stuff, peat or mould, this will make manure of the best quality, and restore to the soil what the flax drew from it.

Why do we import linseed oil in Canada, a country so favorable to the production of flax? We should not only manufacture all the linseed oil we require, but we should not allow a pound of linseed cake to be exported: we should consume it all here,—feed it to cattle, the manure from which would be famous for the lands upon which a flax crop is to be raised. Linseed cake is sold in the city of Montreal at an extravagant price: this is the effect of want of competition.

I am persuaded that Flax Mills would be of great benefit to the whole country. They would employ the poor,—introduce a new crop,—make good farming more profitable. In Flanders, flax is a staple crop. The industrious and intelligent farmers of that country must be satisfied that it is a remunerating crop, or they would not engage in it.

I perceive by the *Toronto Cultivator* that Messrs. M'Gee & Co., proprietors of the Patent Hemp, Flax, and Oil Mills, at Toronto, advertise that "having secured by Royal Letters Patent, the invention of an entirely new process, especially adapted for this country, for the preparation of Hemp and Flax, hereby give notice that they are now ready to enter into engagements to an unlimited extent with all persons wishing to sow the same." I should like to see a similar announcement from a Montreal house, in a succeeding number of the CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL

JOURNAL. The Lachine Canal offers, for various reasons, one of the most favorable spots for the erection of such mills. If by no other means, could not such mills be erected by the establishment of Joint Stock Companies?

To the Editor of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—When we reflect upon the happy and rich condition of the Lower Canada farmers generally, previous to the appearance of the wheat-fly, and calculate the millions of pounds lost in consequence, extending over a period of fifteen years, without any probability of these flies leaving us, unless we resort to means to exterminate them, it will be clear that no proposition can be of greater importance than one that should offer a probability of getting rid of this great infliction.

All parties are interested in this question—landed proprietors, farmers, merchants, mechanics, &c. &c. I feel fully convinced; that if all would use their influence to prevent a single bushel of wheat being sown before the 25th of May, of each year, for the next three years, not only would the farmer be benefited, each year, but, at the end of that period, the wheat-fly would have been starved out and exterminated, and we might then resort to sowing wheat, as in the good old times, and the lands of Lower Canada, and Lower Canada farmers, no longer afford ground for the unfavorable comparisons so often made.

Ten years ago, I gave, in the public prints, my opinion upon the nature and habits of the wheat-fly, and the means of destroying it, and the ten years of observation, since, have but the more confirmed me in the opinion then expressed.

My opinion then was, that wheat alone, of all the grain we sow, remains a sufficiently long time in the soft, milky state, to feed the maggot, the length of time it requires food, before entering upon the chrysalis state, for all other grain ripens too quick; and although, in the absence of wheat, the fly may have deposited its eggs in barley or rye, and may partially injure both these crops, yet the maggot or worm dies, for want of sufficient nourishment, and cannot, therefore, enter into the chrysalis state.

It is in the state of chrysalis that it remains dormant until the next year's greatest summer heat, (always about the first week in July,) when the worm of last summer assumes the perfect