

with the factories where steady employment is offered.

As regards the future of the industry, a great many of the growers seem to be of the opinion that it will only be a matter of two or three years before the agriculture of the European countries becomes re-established and that prices will then drop to their old pre-war level, once more rendering the business unprofitable to Canadian growers. There are, however, several new factors entering into the matter which render this extremely unlikely.

Flax-pullers and other kinds of labor saving machinery are being perfected, and we may soon expect to see much of the expensive hand labor performed by efficient machinery. There was a new pulling machine put on the market last year, which is said to be doing very good work. Personally, I have never seen this latest type of machine in operation, but some of the older models were certainly working along the right lines, and the inventor claims to have eliminated several of their undesirable features. The demand for linen and other flax products will naturally increase with the ever growing population of this continent. Aeroplanes are coming

into more and more extensive use, and while it is difficult to predict the future of the flying machine, the fact remains that linen has been found to be the only satisfactory material for aeroplane wings. A large spinning mill of 10,000 spindles is being established in the Province and this will open a home market for Ontario fibre, something we have heretofore lacked. At present, the only spinning mills of importance on the continent are located in the United States, and the Ontario grower finds it necessary to cross the line and pay a heavy duty before he can find a market for his fibre.

In view of these things the industry should continue to be a profitable one even though the abnormal prices brought about by the war are not maintained, and it is unlikely that they will be. At least two of the men who graduated from this institution last year are at present engaged in growing fibre flax on a large scale, and I have no doubt that others, possibly some who are present in the audience to-night, will in the near future direct their attention to "The Flax Industry in Ontario."

