

Mr. Druce concludes by expressing his conviction that flax is not at all an exhausting crop.

N.B.—The chaff is underrated, inasmuch as that it is considered preferable, when properly prepared, to light oats for cattle feeding.

**FLAX GROWING IN IRELAND; BY M. J. J. DONLAN.**

I beg to submit the following Report upon the merits of my Saturated Flax Seed.

*Extract of a Paragraph from the Monthly Reports for June, 1850, of Mr. John Grennan, Practical Instructor to the Scarriff Union, to the Royal Agricultural Society.*

“The Flax Crop, unless when bad seed was sown (which, I am sorry to say, was imposed on the farmers in too many instances), looks well. The Patent Saturated Flax Seed sent me from London by J. D. Macnamara, Esq., J.P., to have sown on his farm at Ayle, as also with the Rev. Mr. Sheehy, has proved itself superior to the best Riga Seed that could be purchased, sown on the same day, same land and preparations; and should it carry its superiority in the after manufacture of the fibre, I know not its value, as compared with all other kinds of Flax Seed that I know.

(Signed) “JOHN GRENNAN.”

The growth of Flax in Ireland, in 1851 has extended to 138,000 acres, average produce 3 tons to the Irish acre, or 414,000 tons of Flax Straw, which at £3 per ton, would reach £1,242,000. 18 bushels of Flax Seed to the acre, at 5s. per bushel, would bring £621,000. Money value to the growers should be at least £1,863,000, but I can fearlessly assert that the growers will lose at least one-third of this sum by the common methods of preparation they are driven to adopt.

This quantity of 414,000 tons would yield one-fourth, or 103,500 tons of available fibre, which, at £32 per ton, the minimum rate offered in the market, would bring £3,312,000, so that the Company established for this commerce would obtain a scale of interest for their capital not usually expected from commercial undertakings. Full and detailed accounts are ready for the inspection of those willing to take an interest in this important business; added to this it will open a new source of additional employment annually to thousands of the labouring poor, from which they have hitherto been entirely deprived.

The first effective cordage ever yet made from Irish material, has been manufactured from flax produced by J. D. Macnamara, Esq., Justice of Peace in the County Clare.

Offers have been made by several Hemp and Flax Brokers, in London, for supplies of No. 1—T. H. D. Flax, at the rate of 35s. per cwt. The samples I have sent to the Royal Exhibition have created intense uneasiness in all the foreign Hemp and Flax-growing nations, and frequent overtures have been made to me for the purchase of my Patent Rights. The Royal Commissioners have requested that these samples

should be presented to them for exhibition in their contemplated Museum, with which I have complied.

What England wants, and what her farmers have, with careful industry, the power to supply to her, are strong fibrous substances, fit for conversion into the following articles namely:—

Cordage, standing and running rigging, bolt ropes, lead and log lines, fine twine, twine ordinary, mackerel lines, seine and trawl lines, shrouds, white lines in variety of sizes, whale lines, fishing lines, fishing nets, sail cloths, rain awnings, hatchway covers, seamen's bags, hammocks, hammock covers, fire engine and watering hose, as well as every other article made from hemp and flax required on ship board.

For inland consumption, packing, cordage, shoe thread, floor cloths, nail bags; corn and flour, coal and coke sacks; railway pauling cloths, waggon covers, cart covers, rick covers, driving bands for machinery, bed ticking, coarse and fine towelling, coarse flax and tow sheeting. For tents, drills, and the respective fabrics required for ordnance uses, warps for carpets, horse hair cloths, and other cloths, as well as warps for silk and cotton velvets, fusians, corduroys, plushes, and a variety of other uses not here enumerated. There are but few, if any, of these articles supplied from materials produced in Ireland.

Extract of Report—(I have many others)—made upon the strength and merits of the New Zealand Sail Cloths, composed of alternate cloths, produced by my processes from unsteeped Flax Straw, and the Phormium Tenax, or New Zealand Flax as compared with the best known manufacture of No. 1 Sail Cloth, made from the longs of the finest bleached and prepared Riga Flax;—

“Royal Dock Yard, Deptford, January 12th 1852.

“A Strip, 1 inch in width and 2 feet in length of New Zealand Flax, twilled woven Sail Cloth, with a knot in the middle, bore, and then lbs broke, but not at the knot, a weight of..... 624

“A ditto, of best Scottish-made Canvass, knotted and in every respect similar... 561

“A Strip of Sail Cloth, made from Flax of Irish growth, of 1 inch in width and 2 feet in length, of the substance of No. 1, or heavy Sail Cloth, bore, carried, and broke at a weight of..... 834

“Memorandum—In my belief the strongest Canvass ever known, it having borne, in the presence of six persons, eight hundred and thirty-four pounds avoirdupois.

“Deptford Dock Yard, J. M.”

N.B.—The original document, from which this is copied, is signed by Mr. John Morgan, one of the Inspecting and Surveying Officers of Her Majesty's Dock Yard at Deptford, at the above date.

NOTE.—The chaff from one ton of unsteeped flax straw will average about 12 cwt; it has