

with heavy stones to keep them submerged until sufficiently rotted. The third system is known as 'tank retting,' and consists of building large tanks in which the flax straw is placed, pumping water in and leaving until ready to separate. With these two latter systems the straw had to be taken out and dried before any further operation.

### **SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION BY MACHINERY**

"In order to overcome the difficulties in connection with these processes various machines have been invented for the purpose of separating the fibre without the 'retting' process. So successful have been some of these inventions that in Canada at the present time machinery is in use extracting the fibre from the unretted flax quite satisfactorily. In fact, the separation of the fibre from the unretted flax and the manufacture of it in various grades of shop, counter and other commercial twine, has passed the experimental stage and is now being carried on profitably.

"There has also been a small quantity of binder twine made from this fibre, which it is contended has done good work in the field, although it is thought that some slight improvements are still necessary before it will be perfectly satisfactory. These improvements will undoubtedly be made in a short time and the result will be materially beneficial to Canada.

### **YIELD WOULD BE 600 lbs. TWINE PER ACRE**

"Under this process the yield of fibre is about 300 lbs. per ton of flax, and as the average yield of flax is about two tons per acre it would mean about 600 lbs. of fibre per acre. The area of flax grown in the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the year 1908 was about 200,000 acres, which at 600 lbs. per acre represents a yield of 120,000,000 lbs. of fibre. If manufactured into binder twine the quantity would be four times as much as was required to tie the Canadian grain crop of 1908. At present all this flax after separating the seed is burned. There is annually paid out in Canada \$2,000,000 for 30,000,000 lbs. of fibre, while at the same time 120,000,000 lbs. of fibre are burned."

Flax, like anything else, in order to gain the best results demands thought, care and skill in the selection of the seed and its cultivation. It is the universal law of Nature which applied to the animal as