

could be raised here with a profit, if managed with sufficient skill and judgment: but, regarding the Province generally, it can never occupy a prominent place among our farm crops.

Sorghum, or Chinese sugar cane, will no doubt be more extensively tried this season than heretofore, and we would recommend, as in the case of tobacco, that it should be proceeded with cautiously. We must not trust implicitly all the high flown statements that have been made respecting this plant; but sufficient facts have been adduced to induce and justify our farmers to give the matter a fair trial. That the sorghum can be raised here advantageously as provender for cattle, either in a fresh or dried state, and also for molasses, scarcely admits of doubt; but whether the juice produced so far north can be profitably converted into good granulated sugar, has yet to be determined. We shall be glad to be informed of the results that may be obtained in relation both to sorghum and tobacco.

Flax is demanding a larger share of attention this season, and its culture will doubtless be considerably increased. So much has of late been said and written on this subject that but little, anything, remains to be added. This, like the two preceding crops, must be regarded to some extent, in Canada, as *experimental*, and therefore requires the exercise of both caution and judgment. The wisest way is not to attempt too much; an acre or two cultivated well will afford more profit and a far better test than a dozen acres indifferently managed. But flax growing in Canada can never be made of much account till each township procures the necessary appliances for rotting and scutching the raw, and a way opened up to a reliable market. The severe privations which live stock are now undergoing in some sections of the country, ending in some cases in starvation and death, in consequence of the failure of hay and other crops last season, should induce farmers to devote more attention to the raising of roots, which, in periods of scarcity like the present, will enable them to sustain their animals in a healthy condition till their pastures are sufficiently advanced to receive them. If Swedish turnips were more generally raised in the back townships, (and they are admirably adapted to new land) and such other provisions made as are practicable, we should soon hear of cattle actually dying of hunger.

It is to be hoped, therefore, that our farmers will make every exertion this spring to provide an ample supply of cattle food for next winter.

SHEEP WASHING.

There is a good deal of discussion going on in the American agricultural journals at present, on the question, whether to wash sheep or not before shearing them. Some of the writers contend that the wool buyers do not make a sufficient distinction in the price between washed and unwashed wool, and that therefore the farmer who washes his sheep, has all his trouble and inconvenience for nothing, and gets actually less, owing to the loss of weight, for his wool than if he sold it in the natural state.

This may be the case, to some extent, in the States, but we are not aware that the same can be said in this country. We confess ourselves in favour of the practice of washing where the conveniences are at hand for doing it efficiently. The water should be warm and clean; the sheep should be carefully handled, and not kept in the water too long, but long enough to remove the dirt from the fleece. A very short time is sufficient to accomplish this with dexterous management.

The farmer, then, when he sells his wool, should take good care that the buyer makes the proper allowance in the price between the value of the clean and the dirty article. In the case of wool exported to England, especially, where good descriptions of Leicester and other long wools are much in demand, it is highly important that the fleeces should be in clean and good condition, for the sake of the reputation of our produce abroad.

DEATH OF SIR TATTON SYKES.

We learn from recent English papers the decease of this venerable Baronet and distinguished agriculturist, which event occurred at his country residence, Sledmere Castle, near Malton, Yorkshire. Sir Tatton had reached the ripe age of 81, and, till a period comparatively recent, evinced his usual absorbing interest in rural affairs, and participated in the sports of the field; for which, and the successful breeding of race horses, the Hon. Baronet had long enjoyed a world-renowned reputation.