

ting last week, which was attended by a limited number of the trade, and what brought before us we considered of such importance to the trade that we thought it to call another meeting, and let the members decide whether any steps should be taken. The secretary will read the minutes of the last meeting, and then Mr. Donaldson make his statement for your information. Mr. McIlwrath (secretary) read the minutes of the last meeting, and the advertisement concerning the present meeting.

Communications from Mr. Jonathan Richmond, M. P., and Mr. James Herdman, Strabane, were read, in which these gentlemen expressed their inability to attend the meeting.

Mr. Donaldson (who produced and laid on the table several samples of flax, both in the raw and in the scutched state—the produce of Canada) said he had little to add to what he had said before. When in Belfast, last year, he found there was a great demand for raw material, and that exertions were being made to secure the cultivation of flax in Ireland and other places; and the question naturally arose, could flax not be grown in Canada? On his return to Canada he brought the matter before the Canadian Government, and they were well pleased that he had given his attention to the matter here. He visited the various agricultural meetings in Canada; and having gone through various parts of the country, he thought the best thing he could do would be to bring samples of the flax both in the raw and in the scutched state to Belfast.

They were now before the meeting, for inspection of those present. Although the samples were very good, they were not near so good, he thought, as might be produced.

Mr. Patterson.—You have had some of our machines sent out.

Mr. Donaldson said that immediately when he returned back to Canada he had advised the Government to send for a number of Rowan's scutching machines, and on his statement of their efficiency, which had been proved in this country, a number were ordered by the Canadian Government. He did not hesitate to say that the soil of Canada was well qualified for the cultivation of flax. It was some- what like the soil of this country, and the rotation of crops followed generally similar to that they did here. Last year about 2,000 acres of flax had been grown in Canada. His principal objects were—first, to show the merchants of Belfast that in Canada flax could be grown suitable to their market, and, next, to induce the flax merchants of this country to send out some party to give instructions in the production of flax, such as would be suitable. The people of Canada were now considerable consumers of the manufactured article, and the more flax was cultivated there the greater would be its export to this coun-

try, and the greater the import of the manufactured article, so that it would be advantageous to both.

The Chairman said, judging from the sample he saw, there was little doubt that flax could be grown, but at what price could it be set down here? Where did the 2,000 acres go which were grown last year?

Mr. Donaldson—It all went to the United States, except a small parcel that came here to Mr. Preston.

The Chairman—What was got for the produce generally?

Mr. Donaldson—I think about £40 a ton. One company that has scutch mills, bought 1,500 acres out of the 2,000; but I am sorry to see that by fire \$40,000 worth of flax and buildings have been destroyed. I am quite satisfied we can raise an acre of flax or anything else as easily as you can here. The labourers there are better paid for their labour. A man who gets 4s. or 3s. 6d. a day for his labour will, of course, do more work than a man who only gets 1s. 6d. It takes £7 10s. to £10 to raise an acre here, and I am quite satisfied that it can be raised in Canada for £4, considering the cheapness of the land.—One of my objects is to get the manufacturers of Belfast and the province to send a party to Canada to give instructions respecting the proper mode of growing it; and I think, if this be done, the farmers there will adopt the growth of flax more readily. The Government make an offer of paying the passage to Canada and the travelling expenses of the gentleman so sent. A son of Mr. McCrea, of Strabane, with whom the trade are familiar, offers to go for £200 a year, and this expense would be very trifling to the merchants of this province.

Mr. Hind—For what purpose was the flax used in the States?

Mr. Donaldson—For canvas and cordage. Mr. Preston, I believe, got £50 a ton for some of what was sent here.

Mr. Hind—Is there any prejudice in Canada against the growth of flax?

Mr. Donaldson—None, except it is hard to pull.

Mr. Hind—It takes eight women to pull an acre here.

Mr. Donaldson—Four men will pull an acre there, and it is cut as close as meadow—close to the ground.

Mr. Patterson—A country that could produce this flax could grow flax fit for any purpose.

Mr. Donaldson—I have no hesitation in saying that, when you are going to such expense in the cultivation of flax, if you give any attention to Canada, you will get a plentiful supply there in a short time. By encouragement you will get as much in two years as you will from other places, I believe, in five