

LECTURE ON THE PREPARATION

AND CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

The cultivation of flax has become a matter of such interest and practical importance in Canada, that we offer no apology for occupying a considerable portion of our space with a report of a lecture on the subject delivered by a German flax grower, and president of the Agricultural Exhibition, Berlin, lately assembled at the Dublin Exhibition. The North of Ireland is celebrated not only for its flax manufactures but for its flax growing; yet it seems the flax cultivation of that country do not consider themselves as having reached the perfection to which they are ever instant on the accumulation of knowledge. Got Mr. Friedländer to give them an account of his flax growing experience in Germany. His lecture was highly interesting, and has been widely circulated by the practical flax men who will be of value to our Canadian farmer. His detailed experience is encouraging from the example which it affords how the great difficulties always met with in the cultivation of a new crop may be overcome by the influence of a man whose only motive by becoming his super-seer. The plan which the lecturer recommended in Silesia in order to step the flax to advantage, is no doubt quite applicable to Canada. Here it is a matter of complaint

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the Exhibition brought together a very large audience, amongst whom we noticed a very good number of people of the far north of the country, and, in particular, the delegates of the Society of the Friends of the North, by the right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Mr. Friedlander said there was no country in the world better adapted for flax-growing, owing to the heavy dews and moisture of its climate, as Ireland. With the exception of the Scotch mountain land, there is little of the soil in Ireland which is not well adapted for flax available. In no case, excepting on the Scotch mountains, will I presently refer to, should flax be sown on land freshly manured. If this is done, the plant is sure to grow strong and healthy, and will yield a large quantity of thick in wood, and strong and supple fibre. The flax is sown in the third and second ridges; heavy land in the third and second ridges; heavy land in the third and second ridges. I perfectly agree with what Mr. Friedlander mentions in his excellent work on Agriculture, p. 37, viz.—“the best land in the country is the best for flax;” and, in fact, the best recommendation I can give is to sow flax on the best land in the country, and in the best soil. It is necessary to have seen very little land in Ireland prepared as it should be, too many growers seem to imagine that tillage and an enormous quantity of manure are enough for some of the best soils in the country. It is not so; the flax is soverly exhausted is disappointed and lost. Unless flax land is properly manured at the proper time, and properly manured to before and after sowing, no good can follow. Plough in autumn, and sow in the spring, and manure in the spring, and take care to keep the field as level as possible, so as to leave the soil exposed to the influence of the winter rains, and sun and frost. Remove every stone or clod that may be in the field, and every opportunity enables, and otherwise do so, as far as possible, to reduce the condition of the soil to the best possible state.

about three inches), and harrow pressed
heavily. Sow either by hand or by
over-sowing machine, at the rate of a Big
arrow per acre, on light land, Dutch
seed, on heavy lands, Bigs or home-sown
seed. Cows must be taken that the flax-
seed is well cleaned, and that nothing but
flax-seed goes into the ground. This
cleaning is effected on the Continent by
the use of a little machine carried about from
farm to farm, and worked by men who are
employed by the winter from following
seasons, and charge one shilling per
acre. The machine consists of a piece of
sheet iron, perforated with small holes
of three sizes, which is attached to a wooden
frame, slightly inclined. On this frame

of vibration, the seeds dance gradually to the end of the frame, where they fall through the holes provided for them; weed seeds, and other foreign matters of a similar bulk than the wheat seed having previously dropped through the holes in the upper part. The seed now remaining is not harrowed in by a light narrow harrow, and, if necessary rolled. By this means we have clean land, even with clean seed, so that we may not expect to be overwhelmed with weeds; nevertheless, the farmer