

in sheltered locations, the contents of these pits were entirely protected from frost, the protection being doubly secure when a good fall of snow was added. Portions of the contents could be removed at intervals during the winter. When carefully prepared this process proved an excellent form of cold storage, the contents of the pits being preserved in prime condition throughout the winter and even late into the spring.

In October the flax was pulled just before the seeds were quite ripe, enough being left to mature for seeding next year. It was then laid out in the fields to be partially rotted in the autumn rains. By this process the bast or intermediate fibre was loosened from the outer skin and the inner woody stock. After having reached the proper stage of decomposition, about the beginning of December, the flax was dried and stored, awaiting the more leisurely process of breaking which, like the threshing of the grain, went on at convenient intervals during the late autumn and winter. The breaking of flax consisted in pounding it with a heavy wooden mallet on an uneven surface, thus breaking up the partly decayed woody fibre. It was then roughly dressed and handed over to the women of the household who finished the dressing, spun it into threads and wove these into various fabrics. The women accomplished the same process with the wool from the sheep. After being scoured it was carded or combed with small hand cards and deftly shaped into loose rolls of twelve to eighteen inches in length. These were then spun into threads at the spinning wheel and afterwards woven or knitted into cloth or garments. A very durable form of cloth was made by the early settlers, as by their ancestors in Europe, from a combination of linen and woollen threads, the linen being the warp and the woollen the woof. This cloth was known as "linsey-woolsey."

One of the important phases of late autumn work for those who had acquired a number of hogs was the killing, dressing and salting of the hogs. Salt or pickled pork was one of the articles of increasing demand, by the Government for the supply of the troops and those employed on public works, vessel owners and others engaged in transportation, new settlers going into the woods, and lumbermen getting out timber for export. These and other sources of demand united in fur-