cover the seed to a greater degree and provide some loose earth on the surface. The important points in these methods of preparing newly broken prairie for flax are that the furrows be well packed immediately after ploughing and that all the operations follow one another with no delay.

## Varieties of Flaxseed.

The work of improving flax ced has not been carried on so widel and energetically as has been the case with wheat, oats, and barley. The existing varieties are not so clear cut in their characteristics and in the opinion of some observers are not very firmly fixed in type. The creation of new varieties having desirable characteristics in a marked degree, and the improvement of existing older valeties by selection, operations that are now exercising widespread influence upon even the great mass of our seed supplies on the farms in the use of wheat, oats and barley— where the interval of work that have not progress of very far up to the present time.

In consequence there are not, in the commercial supplies of seed throughout the country, any clearly defined varieties. The source from which most of the flaxseed grown in Saskatchewan today has its rise There the crop is very largely grown both for seed and fibre in Russia. though the experience of that country has been identical with that of the United States, namely, that flax is a new land crop and cannot be profit ably grown for its seed for more than a few years in succession. After investigating the flax industry throughout Europe, Professor Bolley, Botanist of the North Dakota Experiment Station has come to the con clusion that all the field flax now being grown may be included in two species One of these is the common small-seeded, field flax (Linum usitatissimum, L.); the other includes the big-seeded varieties (Linum humille, Mill.). The first named species include several varieties the characteristics of which are not too sharply def .ed, such as the blue flowered, the white flowered, and the white seeded. The big seed specie is mostly grown in southern Europe and the Argentine (a heavy pro ducer of flaxseed) while the small seeded species is grown in the northern latitudes. Practically all the flaxseed grown in Saskatchewan is of the common small seeded mocies.

## The Importance of Good Seed.

Since the average farmer need not as yet trouble himself abou what variety of flax he shall grow, his task in securing good seed flax would seem to be simpler than is the case with wheat or oats. As matter of fact, however, the securing of good seed flax in large quanti ties is a most difficult matter. In order to show in concise form jus what a group of experts consider to be the requisite characteristics o good seed of the flax plant and what relative importance should b attached in their judgment to the several characteristics, a score card fo seed flax—the first that has ever been drawn up—is reproduced below this score card was prepared by the faculty of the Saskatchewan Colleg of Agriculture for use in connection with the seed fairs of Saskatchewan held last winter. It has also had the advantage of revision by Profes. o Bolley.