

by the Research Department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, under the direction of Dr. Harrison Howe. Dr. Howe attended the Flax Growers' Convention, which was held in London on March 31 and April 1, and read a very interesting paper on the utilization of straws generally in industry. When this department was established by the Canadian Pacific he was instructed to direct his energies along the line of the utilization of cereal straw in industry generally, but particularly the use of flax straw. I understand that in the West they have succeeded in producing a linen paper of very superior quality, the fibre for which can be produced from that straw on a commercially profitable basis. The idea is that pulp mills for the manufacture of this paper can be established throughout the West, and this pulp shipped to the mills to be manufactured into paper. I thought at one time, and I still think, that a department under such a capable firm as that of Little & Company, of Montreal, of whom Dr. Harrison Howe is chief, would facilitate matters and hurry along the experiments. We want to have the Department of Agriculture co-ordinated through efforts made by such men as Dr. Harrison Howe, and hasten the determination as to the ultimate success of the use of this straw.

My hon. friend will readily admit that if flax straw can be used in the manufacture of paper, and if it will produce a high-grade linen paper, surely it must produce a very much more valuable product for the country and one to which the department might give closer attention rather than directing their energies to producing a fuel from the material. At the Flax Convention in London it was shown that Mr. Howard Fraleigh, as a result of the experiment which he has carried on in the district of Forest, Lambton county, has been able to grow a very superior quality of hemp. His experiment in growing hemp on an area of five acres was so eminently successful as to indicate that people living in similar districts can grow an equally high-grade quality of hemp. The use of some 500 acres in that district has been volunteered by owners for the purpose of being seeded to hemp to show what can be produced. Howard Fraleigh's crop of hemp was said to be as fine as has been grown in any part of the world. It was of a very superior quality. As a result of the meeting up there a very large acreage will be devoted to the cultivation of flax. Howard Fraleigh is said to be the best flax expert in Canada or on the continent of

[Mr. Glass.]

North America. He has, by his own enterprise, conducted a series of experiments in tank retting and he has achieved very good results. He told me that last year the flax crop in his district produced fibre to the value of \$200 an acre which was certainly a very creditable production. That flax was grown for fibre alone. Generally it is understood that where they grow flax for fibre the seed is regarded as a by-product. It does not amount to very much because they do not allow the flax to mature sufficiently to ripen the seed. But Mr. Fraleigh has been making these experiments and his success, I understand, is so well established that in so far as he is concerned the principle of dew retting has been entirely abandoned and he is confining himself on a large scale to tank retting. I think that a man of the enterprise and energy of Harold Howard Fraleigh might have the co-operation of the Department of Agriculture and be assisted in carrying out experiments of this kind. It has taken him two or three years to find out what would be found out with a great deal more despatch if encouragement were given to those who are devoting their energies to this enterprise. I was going to suggest to the minister that in any report of the flax fibre industry generally that may be issued by the department—and I speak of the flax fibre industry generally because it will include sisal and other things—it would be very interesting if we had incorporated in that report the results of the experiments of the department of reasearch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, because I think that in the Northwest Territories the experiments so far have produced results that are of enormous value to that western country. If we could have a report of what Harrison Howe has produced in connection with the flax fibre industry incorporated in our report it would be very useful and probably very helpful to the farmers in the West.

Progress reported.

On the motion of Sir Robert Borden, the House adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

**Monday, August 20, 1917.**

The House met at Three o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PROPOSED INCREASES IN SALARIES TO PERMANENT MESSENGERS.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to present to the House my recommendation