

the same time. This uniformity of depth can generally be better effected by the drill, than sowing broadcast. Cover the seed with a light brush harrow, say from half to three-quarters of an inch deep, and if the weather be dry, give a finish to the surface by rolling. "Both in Ireland and in Belgium, clover seeds are frequently sown down with the flax, and in the latter country, carrots are also met with, sown in the same manner. This practice, though very commonly seen, even in well managed farms, is only admissible when both the land and the seed are perfectly clean, and free from weeds. Even then, it cannot be recommended, as the two crops thus sown together have to struggle for the food which ought, under ordinary circumstances, to be devoted to one; and as the flax has to complete its growth long before the other arrives at maturity, it must suffer the most; while the operation of harvesting the flax cannot be effected without injury to the crop left behind it in the soil. The only attention the crop requires after it has been well got in, is to be kept clear of weeds. This, when it has been drilled, is done by hoeing carefully by hand or the expanding horse-hoe; when broadcasted, however, it must be either left untouched, or carried out in a different manner. In the British Isles, it is generally left to take its chance. In Belgium, where manual labor is far more largely and commonly employed than with us in farm work, and where the extravagance of our weed-growing farmers is rarely to be seen, the operation of hand weeding is never omitted, and is effected in a manner peculiar to the crop. As soon as the plants have acquired a certain growth, and the weeds begin to show themselves, suitable weather, of course being selected for the work, children are sent on to the field for the purpose of clearing it of all surface weeds. The work is done by them on their knees, which are well padded, to prevent them from crushing or injuring the young and tender plants; a small basket, or bag suspended in the neck, receives the weeds, which are collected from time to time by the overlooker and carried off the field. As this operation can only be done once, it is important that it be done effectually, and every weed is by

these means removed from the field. Care and consideration are required as to the best time for the work, as if left too late, the plant is liable to be injured by the pressure of the weeders; the precaution, too, is always taken of working against the wind, in order to give the young plant the advantage that might arise from the action of the wind in assisting it to resume its erect position as quickly as possible."

*Pulling.*—Flax is a plant of rapid growth, and in about ten weeks, if the soil and season are favourable, it will commence flowering, giving to the field a very pretty appearance. In case the ground has been properly prepared, and a sufficiency of soil uniformly deposited, both as regards distance and depth, the stems will grow erect with a few flowers chiefly at the top, all the plants attaining much the same height. The flowers are soon followed by the "capsules," or "bolls," as they are more familiarly called, containing the seed, which when fully ripe, should appear plump, shining and heavy. It is a matter of nicety and of much importance to determine the precise time when flax should be pulled. All agree that the fibre is in the highest condition for manufacturing purposes before the seed becomes quite ripe, or rather as soon as the lower part of the stem has assumed a decidedly yellow hue, which will generally be the case soon after inflorescence, or when the seeds are beginning to change from a green to a pale brown colour. In this case it is obvious that only a small quantity of seed can be obtained, and that not fully ripened, but such seed will be useful as food for cattle. Indeed linseed, whether steeped, crushed, or in the shape of cake, after much of the oil has been expressed by pressure, constitutes one of the most valuable and healthful cattle foods which the farmer can command. It promotes alike the growth of fat and muscle, and when given in moderation with drier food, such as hay, grain, &c., admirably serves to keep the bowels in healthy action.

When both fibre and seed are desired, which will be the case more or less with most Canadian growers for some time to come, great attention is required, as much will depend upon the exercise of a sound judgment not only as regards the quantity, but also the quality of the crop.