

coarser than forty lea, and nine cents per pound on linen yarns forty lea and finer, spun in Canada from Canadian flax in the three years beginning first day of April, 1919, and ending thirty-first of March, 1922. Such bounty, however, not to exceed \$25,000 in any one year or a total of \$75,000 in the three years;

No bounty will be payable under this order on yarns spun in Canada from Canadian flax until the day following the declaration of peace, and payment of the bounty hereunder in no event to extend and apply to yarns spun in Canada subsequent to thirty-first day of March, 1922;

In case the amount of \$25,000 is not sufficient in any one year to pay the bounty on all linen yarns of twelve lea or finer spun in Canada under the terms hereof, the said \$25,000 payable in any one year shall be distributed pro rata amongst all spinners of linen yarns from Canadian flax in Canada in proportion to the amount of yarn as defined herein spun by each during that year. Said bounty being adjustable and payable at the end of each quarter during the time such bounty shall be properly payable;

The prices to be charged for the yarns above mentioned, shall be such as from time to time appear reasonable to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Pursuant to that Order in Council a spinning mill was established in Guelph, Ontario, at an expenditure of \$300,000, and before the war closed its pro-

4 p.m. moters were in a position to guarantee, if necessary, the production of suitable airplane cloth. We have heard, Sir, a great deal about this airplane cloth, and I have here a sample which was produced under the direction of the Imperial War Board. I understand that this cloth, which is as soft as silk and almost as tough as leather, is of a fineness of about sixty lea. This linen was produced in hundreds of millions of yards for aircraft wings, and almost the whole available flax supply of the Empire was commandeered for its manufacture. The reason for its use was two-fold. I am told that this is the only cloth that will take the cellulose for chemical varnish with which it is treated to render it rain and fireproof, and it has also this quality, that if punctured by a bullet or piece of shell it does not rip. Therefore it was a most important article, and every encouragement was given to its production.

As I have said, a mill was established at Guelph, but I understand that any bounty that may have been earned under the conditions of the Order in Council which I have quoted has not yet been paid, owing to some technicality, such as the non-completion of the Peace Treaty, and that the men concerned in that mill have not been receiving the consideration which is due them.

I have referred to what we call lea yarns, and for the information of the House I

would like to state what is meant by the term. I do not know the origin of the Irish word "lea" as applied to yarn, but in a little book published by a Mr. Moore, a member of the Textile Institute of Ireland, is contained an explanation, and I shall now quote it:

The yarn is now, so far as processes of manufacture are concerned, practically a finished article of commerce. So without any further treatment, save being unwound in the "reeling room" and being measured on the reels—60,000 yards making a bundle, which is subdivided into "hanks" and "cuts." Each hank contains 12 cuts, or "leas," and each cut 300 yards; consequently 16½ hanks are equal to a bundle. The bundles are then tied up in bunches of 3, 6, 9 or 12, according to quality—and so, after being carefully dried by steam in the lofts, the yarn is ready for sale. The finest spun for commercial purposes is about 340 leas of 300 yards each to one pound weight, though it has been worked up to 700 leas for special purposes. The coarsest spun out of pure flax is about 20 leas to the pound.

Thus the fineness of linen yarns is designated by the counts—a lea contains 300 yards—and the count, grist, or number of lea yarns is reckoned by the number of leas contained in a pound avoirdupois. Thus if 15 leas containing 4,500 yards weigh 1 pound the count is 15 leas or 15s. If 20 leas containing 6,000 yards yarn weigh 1 pound, the count is 20s., and 60 leas containing 18,000 yards weigh 1 pound, the count is 60s. In other words as the yarn gets thinner and finer, the count gets higher.

Mr. Moore gives figures of the export of yarn in 1912, which shows what an enormous industry has been developed in Ireland. The total export of yarn from Ireland in 1912 amounted to 17,671,100 pounds, which was exported to Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Russia, Spain, the United States and some other countries. Canada at that time was also quite an importer of yarn, and, of course, Ireland in her own textile industries consumes a large quantity.

Before concluding, I want to refer to the possibility of the development and utilization of straw in Western Canada. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Crerar) last year when he was speaking on the subject of flax made a statement as to the possibility of utilizing Western straw which up to the present time has been largely a waste. The Textile Journal of March 2, 1920, which I think hon. members will find on file in the reading room, has an article which I am sure they would be very much interested in. This article, referring to the shortage of paper and the demand for pulp, draws