

localities throughout the country, and Rowan's scutchers as common as threshing machines.

The Elgin Flax Association, though it has not accomplished much, has no doubt by the information and instruction it has diffused through the county, brought the value of flax culture prominently into notice, it remains with the farmers to apply practical results.

In the reign of Henry VIII, in the year 1532, an Act of Parliament was passed requiring that every person occupying land fit for tillage, should, for each quantity of 60 acres, sow at least one rood of it in flax each year. The quantity was increased to one acre in the reign of Elizabeth, 1562, under pain of a penalty.

The compulsion to raise flax may not in these days be enforced by Acts of Parliament and penalties, but let us hope by the stimulus to aid the distress and alleviate the sufferings of the manufacturers of Lancashire, who are deprived of their daily bread by the withdrawal of the supplies of cotton.

Your obedient Servant,

B. WALKER.

St. Thomas, Nov. 24.—[*Home Journal*.]

### PROVIDING HOMES FOR THE FAMILIES OF IMMIGRANTS OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.

We publish the subjoined correspondence by request, and commend the subject to the consideration of our readers. Although the exact scheme suggested by the Chief Agent of the Emigration office—might not be found feasible in many localities, still the general subject of providing comfortable houses for farm labourers and their families, together with a plot of land for cultivation in garden, or small field crops where expedient, pasturage, &c., is one well deserving the attention of proprietors of land, as intimately connected with their own interests, and the conduct and future progress of the labouring immigrant.

GOVERNMENT EMIGRANT OFFICE,

Quebec, December, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGRICULTURIST,—SIR,  
—The accompanying correspondence is submitted for your consideration and should you take the least interest in the matter of which it treats, I beg of you to give it publicity amongst the agriculturists in your neighbourhood.

I am naturally desirous before taking any steps to give the subject effect in the United Kingdom, to ascertain what encouragement the farmers and landed proprietors of Canada are prepared to offer in a cause of such vital importance to the country at large.

There is also another question which I should wish to bring under the notice of our farmers.

Applications are being constantly made to me, by young men of character and intelligence who are desirous of acquiring a practical knowledge of agriculture previous to purchasing a farm on their own account. They are in most instances willing to work for their board, or at mere nominal wages, on being received as one of the family, and some are prepared to pay for the instruction they may receive.

Farmers who are disposed to accept young men on either of these conditions are invited to transmit their proposals to this office.

I remain, &c.,

A. C. BUCHANAN,  
Chief Agent.

GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE,

Quebec, September, 1862.

To the Farmers and Landed Proprietors of Canada.

GENTLEMEN,

Now that the organization of a scheme for a better system of colonization is engrossing the attention of our public men, and a fresh "stimulus" thereby given to the subject of Emigration, I am induced to suggest to you the importance of devising some means to make provision for Emigrant families who arrive in this country without funds; which, while tending to promote the comfort of the poor Emigrant himself, will prove advantageous to your interests, and beneficial, I hope, to the country at large.

The great drawback against which the head of a poor Emigrant family has now to contend is the want of some "Home," or shelter, where he can place his family, while he goes out to work for their support. From the general lack of such accommodation throughout the country, and the consequent difficulty of procuring it, the majority of our Farmers give preference to the employment of single men, much to the detriment of a class of laborers who have within them the elements of a steadier success. To remove this objection, I venture to suggest that proprietors of 200 acres lots should set apart one cleared acre adjoining 10 uncleared acres of land; that they should build thereon a habitable log cabin, fit for the occupation of an Emigrant family, letting it to them for a term of years: the rent to be made payable in labor or in money, as might be agreed upon; or some such arrangement as the following might be made:—That the Emigrant should rent the lot ten years, he giving one day's labor in the week, by way of payment, with the proviso that if within five years he clears and puts under crop five acres, no further rent will be required for the rest of the term; but should he fail to do so, then the bargain would be annulled. An arrangement of this sort would have the effect, if widely adopted, of securing immediate provision for the newly arrived Emigrant, and the Farmer affording this accommodation, would thereby acquire labor with