

universally preferred as being less liable to disease than new soft wheat. Most agriculturists are of a different opinion as regards rye, and prefer quite new grain, for, when it is more than a year old, they consider it necessary to sow it more thickly than they would in the former case, and, consequently, an equal measure of seed would sow a smaller extent of ground in the former than in the latter case.

The seed of most vegetables keeps good for a considerable period. Vetches are said to keep good for eight or ten years. All kinds of seeds which yield oil keep for very many years, provided the worm does not get into them; old linseed is far preferable to new, while, on the other hand, new hemp-seed is considered better than old. According to my own experience, clover-seed keeps very well for two years; it deteriorates in the third, and becomes useless in the fourth. Each separate kind of grain has a certain period of time, longer or shorter, during which it ought to lay in the earth in order fully to developé itself and ensure its producing perfect plants. The success of the crop may often depend entirely upon a favourable time being chosen for placing the seed in the ground. But as the success of this choice depends upon the state of the weather and the temperature during the period of vegetation, the farmer will never be able with certainty to determine the best time for getting the seed in the ground. He must be chiefly guided by the dryness or humidity of the air or of the soil, and thus endeavour to select that state which he knows to be most favourable to each kind of grain. Rye, barley and buck-wheat requires a dry and warm soil to favour their first germination; others, on the contrary, as wheat and oats, require more moisture. Much is already gained if only in this respect; the favourable moment has been seized, and there will be far more reasonable hope of the harvest being successful when the sowing has taken place under such favourable auspices, than there ever can be when it has been performed under different circumstances. It has often been remarked that certain states

of the weather and of the temperature are particularly propitious to the operation of sowing. In the spring, when the atmosphere is loaded with vapours, which, particularly at sun-rise or early in the morning, give to the boundaries of the horizon an apparently undulatory motion, so that the rising sun appears, in the language of the people, "to dance." When this is the case, barley may be sown with particular advantage. Many agriculturists attribute great advantage to the seed being brought in contact with the dew, and, consequently, recommend the sowing to be performed toward the evening, and the seed not covered until the following morning, but this can only be managed when the nights are warm. If there should be any danger of white frost, the seed should not be left uncovered at night. However desirable it is to sow as early as possible, the seed should not be put in the ground until the soil is in a fit state to work.

For the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

THE CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

BY RUSTICUS.

I was glad to perceive in the last number of the *Agricultural Journal*, the interesting communication of "A Canadian" on this subject. There cannot be a doubt, but that much of land in this portion of the Province is quite as well, if not better adapted, for the growth of flax, than for any other description of crops. Besides, the ravages of the wheat fly, and the spread of the potato disease, and the consequent uncertainty of these two staple crops, render it necessary to be on the look out for some crop to compensate in some measure for the difficulty of producing these leading articles of export and consumption. Flax would, we conceive, in some measure contribute to render less burdensome the partial loss of these crops, and would be, perhaps, the most valuable and most suitable for export of any crop we can raise, as it is more certain of meeting a market than any that at the moment occurs to us. To show that this is not a mere unfounded conjecture, I will endeavour to give an idea of the extent of the existing demand for