

## AN EXPERIMENT IN FLAX CULTURE.

Professor Hays, of the Minnesota Agricultural College, has been experimenting with the cultivation of flax, and has found a means of producing a fibre plant that will, he thinks, bring about a revival of that industry in his state. Some years ago, there was a rush into the flax raising in Minnesota, and five factories were built in the state for the manufacture of the fibre. But the attempts at successful growth were failures, and the cultivation has been practically abandoned. Professor Hays secured some Russian flaxseed a few years ago, and has since then planted it with the native seed, and succeeded in hybridizing a plant which promises to be as successful a growth as that which has been raised in Oregon during the past few years. The result of the mixture has been the production of a plant averaging about seven inches in height above the native plant, with a great improvement in the fibre over the parent yield.

It was also shown that it takes only about the same fertilizing elements from the soil that a crop of wheat does, and that, therefore, it will be an easy matter to know how to reinforce the land. Professor Hays has also succeeded in getting a very bushy plant for seed production, bushier, he claims, than those grown elsewhere. They are shorter than the fibre-producing plants, but the stalks can be used for a coarse fibre with much profit, thus making the seed bush a source of double profit. It is expected that the series of experiments that have resulted so well may re-establish flax growing, as one of the industries of the state, as there is an enormous acreage that can be utilized, much of which barely pays for itself, as wheat fields in these days of the enormous production of that cereal.

## ROAD-MAKING.

Not only Ontario, but the Maritime Provinces of the Dominion, are becoming convinced of the economy of good country roads, and are taking interest in providing them. A resident of Laurence-town, Halifax County, J. C. Conrod by name, writes to the Halifax Chronicle regarding road work. Mr. Conrod being an old resident and having travelled a lot over our roads, claims to be in a position to know whereof he speaks. He says the great secret in mending roads is to keep the water out of them, by digging side trenches. He says the water should not be allowed to travel fifty feet on any part of a road. The sides should be dug occasionally, and the wheel tracks and holes filled in and some earth put on the middle of the roadway. The large stones should be dug out and the holes filled in, instead of a little earth and gravel being placed about the stone to cover it. When necessary, these stones can be utilized to fill mud holes, or left at the side of the bridges. Mr. Conrod claims if his ideas were adopted, the county would have better roads than at present at half the cost.

—That part of the Ontario and Rainy River railroad running through United States territory and south of the Lake of the Woods to connect with the Manitoba Southeastern, is to be known, as the Minnesota and Manitoba. The incorporation of the company, which will build the Minnesota part of the line, and which has already filed articles of incorporation with the Minnesota State auditor and county register of deeds, are all backed by Mr. McKenzie, and ample capital is on hand to put the scheme through at once. The applicants are Hector Baxter, Clarence H. Childs, Charles E. Sanford, Edward W. Hawley, and David W. Knowlton. The capital stock is \$1,000,000.

—The changes that electricity has wrought in metallurgical processes have acted to render less expensive many of the rarer metals. Callium, the rarest metal, as produced by electrical processes, is 230 times as expensive as gold.

—We are told that the terms of the amalgamation of the Hamilton Blast Furnace Co., and the Ontario Rolling Mills Co., are in the main as follows: The newly-formed concern will carry on the smelting works, forge works, and rolling mills, and will establish in a short time a steel plant. The capital of the new company is \$2,000,000. Besides pig iron, it will turn out steel billets, angle iron, steel bars, etc.

—Active operations are in progress at Beechmont, where the Cape Breton Copper Company have some thirty men engaged in renovating the old shaft, etc., preparatory to mining the copper. It is even reported, and on good authority, that this company will operate a smelter near their mine, and not ship their product in its crude form to the United States, there to be smelted. However, the company will spend a considerable amount of capital at any rate this summer. They are now reopening the old shaft, and in a few weeks will commence mining.—North Sydney Herald.

## LIVERPOOL PRICES.

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	s.	d.
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No. 1 Cal .....	0	0
Corn old .....	3	2½
" new .....	3	5½
Pea .....	5	6½
Lard .....	26	9
Pork .....	42	5
Bacon, heavy .....	29	0
Bacon, light .....	28	6
Tallow .....	24	6
Cheese, new white .....	50	6
Cheese new colored .....	50	6

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