

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

JULY.

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Official Dep't.

THE FLAX CULTURE.

To the Honorable George Brown, Chairman of Committee on Agriculture, &c., &c.

SIR,—In reply to Question No. 8 in a circular issued from your Committee on Flax Culture I have the honor to submit the following remarks:—

First,—That the soil and climate of Canada are admirably adapted to the growth of this valuable plant is clearly shown by the fact that some ten thousand acres are under cultivation this season in the Upper Province.

Col. Mitchell, of the County of Halton, and the Messrs. Perine, County of Waterloo, have over three thousand acres, and the balance is made up in various parts of the Province, east and west of Toronto. In many instances parties who have grown it for years, putting in only two or three acres, have their fifteen or twenty acres this year.

Parties with capital are preparing machinery to fit it for market, and some thirty new scutching mills are going into operation this fall in addition to those already at work; also two large manufactories for spinning and weaving, thereby turning the raw material into manufactured goods fit for home consumption, thus affording a large share of employment to the mechanical and laboring classes, and a saving of twenty per cent. duty on similar goods imported into the country. An article of coarse linen will be offered in the Canadian market in a few weeks from the manufactory of Messrs. Perine Brothers and Company, of Doon Mills, near Galt, which will take the place of the seamless cotton bags

heretofore in such demand among our farmers. Shoe thread, twine, rope, and cordage are already supplied from this establishment, samples of which I beg leave to offer your Committee for inspection.

Secondly,—The quantity of seed necessary to sow an acre is about one and a half bushels. At Norval two bushels have been used, and at St. Mary's only one and a quarter, but it is better in all cases to sow too thick than too thin. The land best suited to the plant is a clay sub-soil with a deep loam; but I have seen it grown in every description of land in Ireland. The proper mode of preparing the land is by ploughing deep in the fall of the year; again in the spring and thoroughly harrowing the ground, passing the roller over before sowing; harrowing again with a light seed harrow; and lastly, rolling to leave the surface as even as possible; the seed may be sown as early as you can get on the land in the spring, and generally comes off before wheat or other crops, being commonly called a ninety days' crop. Riga seed is the best, and will produce fibre from three to four inches longer than any other seed; this, however, is expensive from the costs of importation.

Canadian seed, when well cleansed, seems to answer very well at present when changed from one locality to another.

In Ireland flax seed is never allowed to ripen, and fresh Russian or Dutch seed is sown every year, producing a finer article of fibre fit for the finest qualities of goods, as cambrics, damasks, &c.

The average quantity of seed produced to an acre is twelve bushels; worth last