

tied the same as wheat makes a small sheaf of about 18 or 20 inches in circumference. The sheaves are stooked the same as wheat sheaves, of from 10 to 12 in a stook, but there are some who prefer stooking only 6 sheaves in a stook; in both cases the stooks should be turned if one side is more ready than the other to carry and rick, that each side of it may have an equal share of the sun to dry the fibre. The object of putting only 6 sheaves in the stook is, because of the convenience of pitching them in one forkful on the cart or waggon when carried, and therefore prevents loss of seed, and it is also found to dry sooner than when a much larger quantity is put together in stooks. The flax, when only a *small* quantity is grown, is put in small *round* ricks. When a *large* quantity is grown, the flax is put in *square long* ricks, 10 feet wide at bottom, 8 or 10 feet high in the side, and then a short roof thatched as soon as finished. Or if not *immediately* thatched, it must be well covered to prevent wet getting to the flax. If such, however, should by neglect take place, then very considerable injury will most probably be found to be done to the flax in question. This system of carrying the flax without steeping it is for the warm water system of preparing flax at the manufactory, and when the grower disposes of his crop to the flax manufacturer, for which class these remarks are written.

After the crop of flax is carried, it will prove an excellent plan to skim the surface of the ground about 3 inches in depth with the common skim plough, Bentall's cultivator, or, in fact, any implement that will be found to perform the work in an efficient manner. Then harrow and cart off (or burn on the ground) all refuse flax and weeds that can be gathered up upon the surface. After all this is performed the ground can either be ploughed or worked by cultivators of steam or horse power. The land may then be sown with rape, late turnips, rye, or vetches, or planted with cabbages adapted for sheep feeding in the months of April and May; of these the thousand-headed cabbage ranks as one of the very first. The seed of this cabbage should be sown either in March or April, for planting out in the months of August or September. If the land be manured after the flax crop, the same as clover stubbles or lea are for wheat, as good a crop of wheat can be grown *after flax* as ever can be grown *after clover*. In proof of such being the fact, it will only be necessary for me to refer any party to see the present beautiful growing crop of wheat *after flax* on Townsend Farm, Horton, in the parish of Bishop's Cannings, near Devizes, in the county of Wilts.

The flax crop can be grown to yield an average crop on suitable soils almost after any other crop has preceded it. The soils best suited for its growth would be found to be strong loams and clay soils; the clays on chalk and limestone formation would prove as good as any chalk, or

limestone brash will be found to grow excellent crops of flax. Green sandy soil, I have no hesitation in stating, will also grow good flax crops. The land be well prepared for the reception of flax seed, and the soil also suitable for that purpose, *it will be found that more to do towards producing an average crop of flax than anything else has vast deal more so than manuring for with bad tillage.* Lands heretofore were rarely, indeed, manured for growing flax, though latterly I have known it in some to be done.

A good crop of flax can be grown after white straw crops, (say, wheat and oats), producing three or four ton per acre on suitable well tilled for the putting in of the flax. The flax always seems to me to answer well following oats after grass and clover lea; the best results, I am certain, have been proved to follow this course when adopted, in most instances, on many farms.

In the northern counties of Ireland, & more flax is found to be grown than in any parts of the United Kingdom, the growers make it a general practice, when their land is cleaned, to sow clover seed amongst their flax, and the growers' most sanguine expectations have always been realized by the system adopted. Crops of clover produced in this way are always found to be far better than those produced by any other method, which can be seen and proved by any observer who may be travelling through these districts. The following are convincing proofs of the entire success of producing superior crops of clover in England, have been witnessed, I know, in various parts thereof. I will here mention, by way of illustration, one instance only of the *fondness* I know clover has of growing amongst the flax crop. J. Parry, Esq., of Allington, near Wizes, Wilts, sowed a field of flax in the year 1860. The crop proved to be a very successful one. In the following year, 1861, he made a crop of clover off the same field, without previously sowing any clover on that field. In red clover, too, which makes it most remarkable, it is found to be almost always rare for red clover to come indigenous *white*. When clover seed is grown with flax crop, I would suggest that the land should be previously made perfectly clean, and freed from all weeds in particular, and then it may be sown in the same quantity per acre as if with any other crop, and it should be so that the clover seed is sown at the same time as sowing the flax seed, before the roller goes over the ground the last time, *i.e.*, after the flax has been harrowed in. The clover seed also be sown after the flax crop has appeared, not exceeding six inches in height. When clover seed is sown amongst the flax crop, it must be left on the surface, for the purpose of moist weather forcing its growth.