

In addition to western British Columbia and southwestern Ontario, it should be possible to produce flax of good quality in those parts of the province of Quebec lying near the river St. Lawrence, and also throughout the Maritime Provinces generally.

SOIL.

Flax can be grown on a great variety of soils. Any soil that is suitable for the growth of cereals and other farm crops may be expected to give similar results, when sown with flax. Where choice is possible, a sandy loam is to be preferred. As uniformity in all characters is the most important point in connection with the production of flax fibre, it is advisable to choose a field that is as level as possible, and has a uniform type of soil so that the moisture-holding capacity will be similar throughout.

ROTATION.

Flax should not be sown on the same land oftener than once in five to seven years. Its exact place in the rotation varies, but the common practice is to sow after corn or some other cereal, or on land that has been in sod for several years. A crop of flax should not succeed mangels, as the soil is apt to be deficient in potash in that case.

MANURES.

Stable manure should not be applied to land immediately before sowing with flax, as it is liable to promote the growth of wood and leaves without a corresponding increase in the amount of fibre. It is better to manure heavily some previous crop in the rotation, and apply no manure to a crop of flax except potash in an artificial form, and then only where the land requires it. As potash is not at present available, owing to the war, wood ashes may be used wherever they can be obtained. In districts near the sea it may be possible to apply seaweed to some previous crop, as it contains a considerable amount of potash.

From very early times flax has had the reputation of being an exhaustive crop. Judged by its effect on the yield of subsequent crops there seems to be little foundation for this belief. On the other hand, when the crop is pulled, there is none of it left in the soil except the very fine roots, whereas, in the case of a crop of wheat, all the roots are left in the soil, and several inches of stubble are ploughed under in addition. In this sense flax removes more from the soil than other crops.

Analysis of the plant should throw some light on this problem, but, at the present time, the results of analyses made by different investigators are so discordant that no general conclusion can be drawn. In all probability there is considerable variability in the chemical composition due to differences of soil and climate.

PREPARATION OF THE LAND.

The preparation of the land should be such as will reduce it to as fine a state of tilth as possible. It should be ploughed in autumn to a moderate depth, if light, but to a greater depth if heavy, and should be frequently worked in spring to pulverize it thoroughly. Land that is badly infested with weeds should not be used for flax, as weeding must be done by hand after the seed germinates. The seed-bed should be compact, and to accomplish this it will be necessary to roll it, either before the seed is sown or after. Sometimes the land is rolled both before and after sowing, the practice depending largely on the nature of the soil. If the soil is so soft that the horses' feet leave a deep impression, the seeds, when sown on the rolled surface, will