

Flax Culture.

In a late number of the *Toronto Globe*, we find another letter from Mr. Donaldson on this subject, which contains some additional information to that embodied in former letters. Mr. Donaldson says:—

Canada should turn her attention at once to this subject, and embrace the opportunity of growing every acre the farmer can put in, as it is in contemplation, with several capitalists here, to put up machinery in Canada, the moment there is sufficient flax grown in the country to warrant them in this undertaking. Now that the Spring is at hand, and the Scutching Mills are already on your shores, ordered by the Canadian Government, parties wishing to try them should make application, without loss of time, to the head of the Bureau of Agriculture, Quebec—the machines having no doubt, reached Toronto before this. The cost of cultivation should not deter the Canadian farmer from making the trial of a few acres, as there is not an acre of flax raised in Ireland that does not cost from six to seven pounds sterling—including seed, rent, taxes and labour—before it is ready for our market, and farmers this season, where they have been at all fortunate in getting a fair crop, realized from £80 to £90 a ton, and many of them a great deal more. The quantity of seed sown to the acre should not be less than 2 bush. of 56 lbs., as it is an advantage to have it thick enough to have the fibre evenly and of the same grist. If farmers are not convenient to a mill, they can put the straw in the barns, sheds, or stack it up, after it has been grassed, and the longer it is kept in this state the better the fibre becomes. It is highly recommendable to farmers in the western part of the Province, where more flax growers are than any other place, to endeavour to pull a portion of it before the seed is ripe, as in this state most of the flax that brings the best prices is harvested. The ground should be in good tilth, after having it well ploughed and harrowed, and above all things clear of weeds, then it should be rolled, then the seed sown, then harrowed with a light seed harrow, again, and lastly rolled. Often farmers here sow their clover and grass with flax, as they find in pulling, the flax helps to mould the young clover plant, and seldom, if ever, you will see patches missed, which is often the case with either barley or oats. Farmers in the country who have not much experience in the culture of flax, should go to Norval, Township of Esquesing, or to Canestoga, county of Waterloo, and they will see for themselves the process carried on, both in the cultivation and preparation for the market, by the milling and manufacturing carried on at both these places; and in the place of being able to realize \$15 to \$16 an acre in

growing fall wheat, and less at the present price of other spring grains, they will get from \$30 to \$40 clear out of flax, and twice that when they come to understand the steeping and handling thoroughly, as they do in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, or any flax growing country.

Hoping to hear of a flax association being formed immediately in Canada.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DONALDSON,

Canadian Government Emigration Agent

Belfast, March 6, 1852.

The Flax Scutching Machines.

The Flax Scutching machines imported in order of the Canadian Government, from Ireland, of which a cut and description are given at page 99 of this volume, have arrived, and at the date of writing, at Toronto. Of the machines imported, three are to be placed in Lower Canada, and three in Upper Canada. Of these, one is presented to the Board of Agriculture in each section of the Province; to be used under their direction and control. Of the two remaining mills for Upper Canada, one is the present to be placed at London, and one at Kingston.

The Composition &c. of Milk.

[We have much pleasure in presenting to our readers the subjoined lecture on Milk, delivered by Professor Voelcker, the Chemist to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, at a meeting of the council, held in March 12th 1852.]

COMPOSITION OF MILK GENERALLY.

Milk is essentially an emulsion of fatty globules in solution of *caseine*, or curd, and sugar. The fatty matter of milk, however, is not contained in it in a free condition, but is enclosed in a little cell, consisting of the identical substance which, in a state of solution, exists in milk, and which is participated in when milk gets sour. In other words the whole of the fatty portion of the milk, is encased in *caseine*. I have here some milk globules, and they are of different sizes in different species of animals, even in animals of the same kind they vary. The 1-2000th to the 1-4000th part of an inch. They are generally round, but sometimes slightly egg-shaped. The yellow spots represent some of the epithelium cells which are generally found in minute quantities even in