

H. T. Vulte, Ph.D., F.C.D. Teachers' College, Columbia University, N.J., witnessed the new process of converting flax from its natural state into linen at Brookfield, Mass. He was not only greatly pleased with the results but testifies that he was familiar with the majority of the composition of the liquids used and considered them harmless. He also adds: "It seems to me that this new and valuable process has a great future and I hope to see it in operation on a large scale at an early date."

An extract from the U.S. agricultural reports says: "If the American farmers of fifty years ago were able to produce a quality of flax suitable for linen manufacture, there is no reason as far as cultivation is concerned, that farmers of today cannot do the same thing though not by the old methods of cultivation." Again, Charles Richard Dodge, Special Agent in charge of U.S. Fibre Investigations, said in a report to the Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, submitted April 11th, 1898: "The great success of the Department experiments on the Pacific Coast has awakened a widespread interest in the culture of flax for fibre. The fact that the raw flax from one lot of experimentally retted Puget Sound straw gave 47 per cent. of spinning fibre worth \$500.00 per ton is conclusive evidence that this country can produce fine flax in quantities." All of which applies to Canada with the same force.

It is reported that at a demonstration of a new process of transforming flax straw into linen fibre which was given in New York in 1907 before a number of experts interested in textile industries, "a dark raw flax was degummed, cleansed and bleached into a white, glossy and exceedingly tough fibre ready for spinning in the space of thirty-five minutes." The further treatment by which the linen fibre is rendered absorbent required only twelve additional minutes. The sample of towels, crash and absorbent linen shown seemed to possess very unusual qualities and the experts present considered that they were very much better value than any similar goods on the market, and as a result of this invention linen fabric can be manufactured at a cost considerably below that of foreign linens. It is partly a mechanical and partly a chemical process and the inventor has demonstrated that he can by this process make linen fibre out of flax straw in half a day.

There are similar references from the Agricultural Department . Washington, D.C., as well as from other reliable sources on this subject, but space forbids their publication.