

ing the flax seed—For a statute acre of land.—

	s.	d.
Muriate of Potash, 30 lb—cost about	3	0
Chloride of Sodium (common salt) 2 <sup>q</sup> lb	0	3
Burned gypsum (plaster) powd'rd, 24"	0	6
Bone dust, 54lbs. ....	3	6
Sulphate of Magnesia (Epsom salts) 56"	4	0

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*Selecting Seed, Sowing, &c.*—It is a matter of great moment in the successful cultivation of Flax that firm, plump, and uniformly ripened seed should be obtained, as much inconvenience and often considerable loss is sustained by negligence in this particular. Foreign seed, it is said, is universally preferred in Ireland, and the Belgians always select Baltic flax for their seed purposes. "For heavy soils the Dutch seed is frequently used, which is the produce of Riga seed once grown in Flanders. The American seed was at one time tried, as being somewhat cheaper; experience however, has shown that the plants had a tendency to grow branchy instead of a single erect stem and although good for seed purposes, a large portion of the fibre was necessarily lost in scutching. Riga seed is everywhere considered the best for seed purposes. This, however, as is the case indeed with all foreign samples, is too dirty to admit of being used directly for the flax crop; as the amount of weeds mixed up with it would not only materially lessen and lower the value of the produce, but stock the land to the prejudice of after crops. The best plan to pursue is to obtain foreign seed sufficient merely to reproduce the quantity of seed required for the flax crop; and to sow this separately in wider drills, not less than 12 inches apart, so that it may be kept entirely free from weeds, and thus furnish a clean sample for the crop of the following year. This practice is generally followed in Belgium and in Ireland, where it is commonly known and sold as seed "one year from the barrel." The seed varies, of course, considerably in price; the Riga is, however, always the dearest: the Dutch and American being offered at a lower price, are consequently preferred by some growers."

*Sowing.*—The time for sowing flax will vary according to the season and the state of the land: the earlier it is done the better,

provided the necessary conditions are favorable. It can seldom be done in this country before May. Something depends upon whether the object be for fibre or seed; if the former, then the sowing should be done as early as possible; if the latter, or seed and fibre combined, the operation may be deferred a few days. In this country, vegetation is so rapid in its processes in the summer, and the crop grows so quickly, that the plants sown late have not time sufficient to mature and consolidate their tissues, which is so necessary to the production of good fibre, and which the slower vegetation of the spring months generally secures to those sown at an earlier period.

It is important to bear in mind, that the intended for flax should not be muddled with till the surface, at least, is thoroughly done and that a fine deep tilth is a necessary, and most advantageous condition;—and the surface should, by repeated harrowings, &c., be made as even as possible. The proportion of seed should vary; if fibre only be desired, the sowing should be thicker than when seed merely is required. In the former case, from 2 to 2½ bushels per acre may not be too much while in the latter, or when both the fibre and seed are sought, the quantity may be reduced. It is better, as a general rule, to sow too thick than too thin; as in thick sowing, the stems grow tall and straight, with only one or two seed balls on each at the top, and the fibre will consequently be found much finer and superior to that produced from thin sown flax which grows coarse and branches out, producing much seed, but a very inferior quality of fibre. For this reason, it is better to sow in broadcast, than in drills; since the plants in the latter case, by having too much late exposure, are apt to grow coarse and branched, and consequently producing flax of inferior quality. If drilling be adopted, a mode which certainly affords greater facilities for weeding, the rows should not be placed more than 10 inches apart, so as not to allow the plants much room for lateral growth. Which mode is adopted—(broadcasting at present is better suited to Canada) care should be taken to cover the seed at a uniform depth, otherwise it will not germinate and the crop will