

two if necessary, and lend his mechanical skill to assist the inventor in overcoming the difficulties which rendered the machine imperfect. However nothing was done and matters went on until the next year. While some improvements were made and people were waiting for the completion of the pulling machine, it was still in an unsatisfactory and unfinished condition. That was the condition last year. I then saw the machine pulling in the field and thought it did marvellous work. There were certain mechanical difficulties attaching to its operation which rendered it not in any sense a perfect machine; but I am told, Sir, that a large concern in the town of Goderich, Ontario, has purchased all the patent rights of this machine and has improved it by the use of ball bearings to reduce the amount of friction. I am also told that in operating it this year a gasoline engine that will work independently is attached to the binder. I have the intimation, Sir, that that machine is now practically in a perfected state, and I am sure it will result in very great benefit to the whole world if such turns out to be the case.

The subject is a pretty broad one to cover in an address of this kind and while it is technical in its nature it is by no means devoid of interest to members generally. Take the county of Chambly-Vercheres. I have the assertion of the fibre expert of the Experimental Farm that the soil and the climatic conditions in that county are peculiarly favourable for the development of flax culture. I am told further that J. G. Crawford, a director of the Belfast Spinning Mills, Ireland, visited that section of the country some time ago, in conjunction with Mr. Hutchinson, and was so attracted by the possibilities of flax culture in that district that he has taken steps to organize the cultivation of, I am told, two thousand acres—at any rate, a large area. Well if our friends in Quebec were able to cultivate two thousand acres at a profit in the ratio of \$4,000 from 15 acres, which was obtained by Graham Bros. in Carleton county, last year, it indicates the possibilities that underlie the cultivation of flax. The names I have mentioned are those of reliable and responsible men; and if this big concern, the Belfast Spinning Mills, the largest concern in the world, is extending its operations to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario with a view to securing the raw material necessary for its mills in Ireland, surely it must follow, as surely as night follows day, that it will be to the advantage of these mill-owners to have their

[Mr. Glass.]

spinning and their weaving mills working side by side in Canada. Then we shall see the flax fibre manufactured into the finished article in Canada and a consequent great economic advantage to this country. Today one-half of the whole export of linen from Irish mills goes to the United States. If Canada is the market for the raw material, would not this naturally be the place for them to establish their mills?

The desirability of encouraging the spinning of yarn took up the attention of this House two years ago, and I wish to refer to the subject of bounties. We recommended that in order to get the industry started some encouragement should be given for the establishment of spinning mills in Canada. No changes in the tariff were considered at that time, but the strong pressure brought to bear by the Imperial War Board for us to produce linen for airplane wings was so urgent that the War Board of Canada recommended to the Privy Council the desirability of lending some encouragement for the spinning of yarn to meet the requirements of the Imperial War Board. On the third of September, 1918, this Order in Council was passed, and in quoting it I wish to point out what I think is its inherent weakness, in that it did not cover the needs of the situation. The order is in the following form:

Whereas it appears that no linen thread or yarn has come forward from Great Britain since the first of January, 1918, for the manufacture of fishing nets, or shoe hemp for military and agricultural harness, or for the manufacture of aeroplane cloth, linen thread for military boots, machine thread for the manufacture of agricultural and military harness, or yarns and threads for civilian use in Canada;

And whereas, owing to war conditions it is unlikely that Canada will be able to secure adequate supplies of linen and linen threads and yarns from Great Britain during the continuation of the war;

And whereas flax of suitable quality and adequate quantity is being grown in Canada, and it is desirable that the Canadian farmers should be provided with a favourable and satisfactory market for this flax in Canada;

And whereas certain manufacturers of linens in Canada are disposed to undertake the spinning of linen threads and yarns from Canadian flax;

Therefore His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, pursuant to the advice of the War Trade Board and under and by virtue of the powers vested in the Governor in Council by the War Measures Act, 1914, and otherwise, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered as follows:—

That a bounty of three cents per pound be paid on linen yarns not coarser than twelve lea or finer than twenty lea, and six cents per pound on linen yarns twenty lea and finer, but