

Upper Canada is 17 bus. per acre, which I believe is not disputed:—

Dr.		
To two years' Rent or Interest of cleared land, at 10s. per acre, - -	£1	0 0
To one-third of expense of manuring (the other two-thirds being charged to the following crops) 25s. per acre, - - -	0	8 4
Seed - - - - -	0	7 0
To three ploughings and draggings, and water-furrowing and rolling, per acre, - - - - -	1	0 0
To Cradling and Binding, - - - -	0	5 0
To threshing and cleaning 17 bushels, at 4d. per bushel, - - - - -	0	5 8
To drawing in and taking to Mill or Market, 2d. per bushel, - - - -	0	2 10
	£3	8 10

These prices are not more than the actual cost. The rent of 10s. per acre is not too high, considering that the *cleared* land has to pay the interest for the wild, and the other prices are such that no farmer could afford to do the work for less. Deducting, then, the 8s. 10d. for the straw, the actual cost of raising an acre of wheat is £3; and, taking 17 bushels as the average, the cost of raising wheat is 3s. 6d. per bushel—and the selling price at present in Belleville is only 3s. 3d. I may here remark that the average crop of this county for 1851 is about eleven bushels per acre, owing to the depredations of the weevil, which is fast travelling West—having come into the County of Hastings from the East, about two years since, and its ravages having extended this year to within six or seven miles of the Western Boundary; and it is well worth observing that its ravages have been much more destructive on late sown than on early sown wheat. The acreable produce given above (say eleven bushels) has not been made up from the census lists of this year; but the Commissioner here has promised me a sight of them, and, when I have accurately ascertained the average of all the crops grown in the county, I will send them to you, with pleasure, as this description of information must be very interesting to all your Agricultural readers;—and I hope in every county some one will take the trouble of computing the acreable yield of every description of crop.

Having ascertained, then, Mr. Editor, that even with an average crop the expense of raising wheat is 3s. 6d. currency per bushel, and this year as high as 5s. 5d. per bushel in this county (for the expenses are about the same *per acre*, whether the crop be large or small)—is it not high time for us farmers either to try to increase our averages, or turn our attention to the cultivation of other descriptions of produce? Having occasionally grown *flax* in the North of Ireland, I think it would be found to be very suitable, both to our climate and soil, and it being easily compressed, it would form an article of advantageous export.

How far the Provincial Association would be warranted in importing good seed and suitable machinery for scutching (such as could be attached to a common horse power) is a subject well worthy of grave consideration. The culti-

vation of this crop has done a vast deal of good to other countries, and much and valuable aid has been given by many *public bodies* to foster its growth and preparation for the manufacturers.

Although it is in general much better to leave these matters to private enterprise, yet in the present youthful state of our Agriculture and manufactures, a private individual could not be expected to incur the risks which such a speculation would involve, and it is certainly worthy the consideration of the leading men of an association, whether they ought not to encourage the growth of flax, either by large premiums, or by more direct aid in the way of importing machinery, or by both of these methods. We require every encouragement from public bodies quite as much here as in the Old World, to induce its proper cultivation, as there are comparatively so few who understand its nature and properties; and few are willing to grow it unless they had the means of preparing it for market.

In case any of your readers should wish to try it, I may remark that it generally rejoices in a clay soil, not too heavy, and is always best the second crop after clover lay.

As you say you like short practical observations, I take leave at present, wishing you much success in your useful labours and many congratulations upon your well merited advancement to the Chair of Agriculture in our Provincial University.

I remain, yours truly,

WILLIAM HUTTON.

Belleville, Feb. 12, 1852.

Whilst thanking our respected correspondent for his friendly congratulation, we have much pleasure in informing him that his expressed wishes in reference to Flax are soon likely to be realised. Mr. Commissioner Widder, of the *Canada Company*, has signified to us his intention of importing from England, next season, one of Claussen's Flax Dressing Machines; that gentleman has already announced, on behalf of the Company, liberal prizes for flax and hemp, to be awarded at the next Provincial Exhibition, and we have no doubt but the Board of Agriculture will lend this movement all the aid in their power.—EDITOR.

THE PARSNIP.

THOROLD, Jan. 27, 1852.

SIR,—In your next number would you, or some of your subscribers, answer me the following queries:—

1. Will the garden parsnip, if left to run to seed any length of time without cultivation, become poisonous?
2. If so, at what stage, or in how many generations will it become so? or is it the root that has borne seed that is poisonous?
3. Will the same parsnip produce seed more than once?