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multi-millionaires and fathers-in-law to European aristocrats, in control of the American packing industry, will take steps to protect their interests, and perhaps after all we won't see those trainloads of duty-free northwestern cattle rolling into our abattoirs. This thing should have been kept dark a little longer.

In the meantime Canadian livestock raisers would like to get a line on one or two of the packing establishments in that string of abattoirs extending from coast to coast, that the government and Mr. Mackenzie have so quietly built. They are not so much alarmed at the prospect of United States cattle clogging up the slaughter houses as they are puzzled to know where those behind this scheme have got their abattoirs concealed and how they have succeeded so well in concealing them. Why it seemed only yesterday that Western farmers were petitioning Sir Wilfrid to have the Dominion government build and equip public-owned abattoirs, and now, presto, the thing is done! Shades of the king of Banu Sasan and his story-telling Shadraxad, can this be possible!

## PROFESSOR BOLLEY'S LETTER TO FLAX GROWERS

Professor L. H. Bolley, of North Dakota Agricultural College, in a letter to the farmers of his state, calls attention to the decreasing production of flax in the Northwest and advises farmers to do everything possible to keep their soils free from the fungi of flax diseases, to use pure seed, to consult freely with agricultural experts on their individual problems, that one of the most profitable industries may not be lost to the Northwest. The letter will be of interest to flax growers on this side of the line:

The importance of the flax crop to the Northwest is one worthy of your closest consideration. Statistics of the crop indicate that it is gradually losing ground in the Northwest, in the same sense as it has done in every other state. The Northwest can ill-afford to lose so important a crop from their short list of available crops for general farming. The records of this crop show that it has been one of the great money makers of North Dakota and previously did equally well for Minnesota and other older states.

I have become convinced through my studies that it is not necessary that the flax seed crop should be lost to the Northwest, and shall try to help the farmers save the crop much in the same sense as the wheat crop has been saved from the ravages of loose smut, and the potato crop from its various enemies. North Dakota alone has annually produced approximately half of the flax seed crop of the United States, and considering the ruling prices for the seed the importance of the crop is plainly evident.

At this time I can only say that the flax crop is not destructive to the fertility of the soil, and that with proper handling the new soils of the Northwest need not be infected with the diseases which have driven the crop out of the soils in the older regions, and that with proper handling the crop can be placed into profitable growth upon the older lands where the diseases now exist. This can only be done by a careful consideration of the methods of planting, by the selecting of pure, clean seed, by disinfecting the seed before sowing it, and by conducting proper rotations to keep the soil free from the growth of the flax root fungi which may chance to reach it. The importance of the question of pure seed and of keeping the soil free from the persistent parasites which destroy the crop, is so great that if overlooked the crop must certainly eventually be lost in any particular neighborhood. If a farmer fails to treat his wheat for the prevention of smut, he may have to sell it as rejected wheat, but he has not injured his land. If he fails to treat his flax seed for the prevention of the root diseases he not only eventually loses his crop but injures his land for the growth of flax thereafter. Furthermore, he places the lands of his neighbors in jeopardy, as the parasites which rot off the roots of the flax plant and cause wilt live in the soil for a number of years.

The department of botany of the North Dakota experiment station, pro-

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