

Hemp Growing in the Western States.

We have repeatedly stated, that but few crops would pay better than Hemp, and we now feel disposed to devote a small portion of each number of the *Cultivator*, to the discussion of this subject, in the hope that a number of experiments will be made the coming season, to prove the correctness of those statements. There are vast tracts of land in Canada, where the soil is too rich in vegetable matter or humus for wheat, which would produce most excellent crops of hemp, and if any attempt be made to grow this crop, to be successful, it must be sown on the very richest description of soil. In our last number, we made mention of the amount of hemp annually imported into Great Britain, and what a good article would be worth here, to export to the British market, and our object at this time of drawing attention to the subject, is to show how far the Farmers in the Western States are in advance of the Farmers of Canada, in the growth and management of the hemp crop. In the April number, we propose to give a few practical directions to the readers of the *Cultivator*, with a view of affording some instruction on the management of the soil, sowing the seed, &c., for this crop.

It has been said a thousand times over, that Canada might supply her own and the British market with hemp, and notwithstanding, nothing has been done to secure this important object. We some times fear that the Canadian Farmers are not made of the right metal, to make bold experiments in cultivating their farms, but in the hope that this apprehension has been erroneously formed, we make the following extract from our excellent co-temporary the *Prairie Farmer*, believing that this noble example will stimulate our yeomen to make the attempt, at least, of imitating their neighbours in so good a work:—

During the first of last spring some arrangement or contract was offered by the navy department, for the raising of hemp for the United States Navy. Mr. Brown of Boston, who has been in the hemp business, as United States agent

for six years, as I am informed, took the contract to extend for three years; the hemp to be delivered at St. Louis, Mo. Persons were in waiting at Washington City from Missouri and Kentucky, to enter into contract with Mr. Brown for raising hemp for the supply of his steam hemp machines, now in process of erection. He was introduced to Mr. Baker, and the result was, that Mr. Baker was here with articles of agreement from Mr. Brown, for the raising of 2500 acres of hemp this season, before the gentlemen from Missouri and Kentucky were aware that the navy contract was let out for an increase of the supply of hemp. Mr. Brown has associated with him Mr. Billings, chief engineer, and several other experienced gentlemen, and the works are now progressing rapidly. The 2500 acres were subscribed in this way. One steam water rolling and breaking machine is located close to my farm, five miles N.E. from the city of Springfield — The location is on the bank of the Sangamon river. Another location is on Sugar Creek, four miles S.E. from the city. A third location is on Beardstow road, eight miles N.W. from the city, and on Prairie Creek. A fourth location is on the Sangamon River, about twenty miles N.W. from the city. The hemp now growing looks as well as any ever seen perhaps on earth. Mr. Washington has eighty acres growing, and the hemp, on 20 acres of it is now seven feet high. The quality and quantity of lint has been tried by Mr. Billings and pronounced to be equal to any in the United States. We furnish our own hemp seed, and Mr. Brown agrees to pay us \$12.00 per acre for one half the ground put in hemp, and \$1 87½ to \$2.00 per hundred for the other half. We deliver the hemp at the machines in the straw, and the owner of the machine water rots and breaks it. Hemp cradles are furnished us at \$5 00 each. Each hemp machine is permanently located and costs about \$15,000. About fifty hands are required to run each machine. The machine houses are all up, and nearly completed. The machinery is all at Breadstow, for the four machines. The capital invested in this branch of business here is \$150,000, as I am informed. I have put in but 12 acres out of 170 acres upon the farm. Next year I shall, if I live, put in only 25 acres well manured. Mr. Humphries put in 120 acres, at the Sugar Creek location. Others, some 50, 30, 40, 25, 15, 10, and as low as only 5 acres each. Springfield, Ill., July 15th, 1846.