

FLAX CULTURE IN OTHER PROVINCES.

Flax is grown successfully over the larger part of the settled portions of Quebec, where it is cultivated, in comparatively small areas, chiefly for its fibre, for household purposes. It is retted, scutched, spun, and made into fabrics for household use by the thrifty wives and daughters of French Canadian farmers. Flax is also grown successfully in the Maritime Provinces and in British Columbia.

OIL MILLS IN OTHER PROVINCES.

There is a linseed oil mill in Winnipeg that has been in operation for several years, which has a capacity for manufacturing from 80 to 90 barrels per week, using 2,000 bushels of seed. This oil, which is made entirely from Manitoba seed, usually supplies the home demand; and when seed is plentiful and there is more made than is required in the province the surplus is sent to the other provinces of the Dominion. A new mill is also in process of erection at Mission, in British Columbia, where, it is proposed, to supplement such seed as can be grown in that province by importations from Manitoba and South America. There is also an oil mill near the city of Quebec, which was in operation in 1893, but has not been working of late.

IS FLAX A SPECIALLY EXHAUSTING CROP?

This question is usually answered in the affirmative, but this opinion does not appear to be warranted by the chemical analyses which have been made of this crop, showing the principal elements of fertility taken from the soil during the period of its growth. The results which have been obtained by chemical examination may be summarized as follows:—

An acre of flax producing 15 bushels of seed and 2,000 lbs. of straw, takes from the soil—

	Nitrogen in lbs.	Phosphoric Acid in lbs.	Potash in lbs.
For the seed, 840 lbs.	26·	14·86	9·28
" straw, 2,000 lbs.	20·	9·	28·
Total.....	46·	23·86	37·28

If we compare this with a crop of wheat yielding 25 bushels of grain per acre and 2,200 lbs. of straw, we find that the wheat takes from the soil—

	Nitrogen in lbs.	Phosphoric Acid in lbs.	Potash in lbs.
For the grain, 1,500 lbs.	28·50	12·68	8·54
" straw, 2,200 lbs.	12·03	4·96	10·67
Total.....	40·53	17·64	19·11