

country. We saw these processes actually worked out and brought back samples of the products, which are on file for inspection. The manager also gave us figures which enable us to report that the processes in use by the Western Linen Mills take seventy per cent. from the flax straw in the first operation, fifty per cent. of the remaining product in the second, or degumming process, and a further reduction of forty per cent. in the third process, finally producing 128 pounds of yarn from a ton of flax straw, which has a market value of 22 cents a pound, or \$28.16 for each ton of straw that is put through the machines. Besides this, there are by-products of tow and mattress and paper material which are worth \$15.00 more, or a total of \$43.00 derived from every ton of flax straw treated. The cost of this flax straw laid down at the factory in Duluth is \$12.00 per ton."

The bearing of all this upon our own agricultural and industrial life is very important. Bear in mind that the processes of the plant which we saw at Duluth take the flax straw just as it comes from the field—cut by machines, threshed by machine and in all the disorder into which it has been thrown; no pulling nor any costly hand-work whatever. Half a million tons of such flax are burned every year on our Western farms. There is a splendid market at our very doors for every sort of the finished article produced. The new processes we investigated at Duluth prove that our flax straw that is now wasted in such enormous quantities is a good, merchantable product and one capable of being converted into goods for which we have an unlimited market at hand.

At Minneapolis, we called upon the Ware Binder Attachment Company. The Company's product is right in line with the utilization of flax straw because the Ware binder attachment is one that is made for the express purpose of using binder twine made from flax straw. As you are aware that all of the binder twine now used in the West is imported into Canada and any factory here producing this twine from flax straw would give splendid results in industrial growth and the profitable employment of what is now a sheer waste.

Chambers' Encyclopedia says: "The great fault with flax is that the steeping (retting) process does not remove all the gum in the fibre. It has been stated by experts of high standing that if the gum could be completely taken out by some inexpensive process there is no reason why flax should not be spun as easily as cotton."