

use than cotton. Farmers might use it for most of their clothing for six or seven months of the year. We complain of the backward state of the country, while we neglect to do what is in our power to promote its prosperity.

Since writing the above, we have received a letter from Wm. G. Knox, Esq., of Lachine Mills, on the subject of Flax. This gentleman came from a part of Ireland, where the cultivation and management of Flax is well understood, and his ideas are entitled to attention. He has water power at Lachine, equal, perhaps, to any in Canada, and conveniently situated for Flax machinery. We have no doubt that a Flax crop would pay as well as any other cultivated by the farmer—*provided*, he could sell the produce, when stacked in the field, at a fair price. The assurance of a market is, however, necessary for the farmer, or he will not be induced to cultivate the crop. The importation of seed from Russia and Holland, is also necessary, in order that we may grow the best quality of Flax. Now is the time to take some action on this matter. Even for our own use, the fibre for manufacture and the seed for feeding our cattle would greatly augment the value of our annual production. We cannot understand why we should be so slow in introducing improvements that must be advantageous to the country. We were told some time ago, that in the State of New York, parties purchase the crop of Flax in the field from the farmer, when pulled and stacked, and pay from eight to ten dollars a ton for the straw, which they take to their mills for dressing, and they are said to make it a very profitable business. We have frequently described the cultivation necessary for Flax. In the British Isles, it is found, that lands, not very fertile, will produce a crop of as much value, as the richest soils. The cause of this is, that the richest soils produce a strong, heavy quality of flax that is not much more than half the value of that produced on poorer soil, weight for weight.

Land that has been in grass, well ploughed or dug, and the ploughed surface well pulverized by the harrows, will give a fair crop of Flax, and is not likely to have much weeds. We beg to refer to our last number for an article on the mode of cultivating Flax.

*To the Editor of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.*

SIR,—I take the liberty of requesting you to lay before the Agricultural Board for their consideration, the following communication respecting the cultivation of Flax.

The possibility of cultivating flax in Lower Canada to advantage, is a subject that has often been discussed by farmers and others taking an interest in the welfare of the country.

The chief objection to its cultivation arises from the difficulty the farmer would experience in preparing his crop for market after being raised. It being a troublesome and expensive operation, and that kind of handicraft business not commonly understood by farm laborers.

The objections are now obviated by the new process of steeping and dressing flax, which throws this part of the business out of the hands of the farmer, and into the hands of the flax miller, who also becomes a flax merchant, purchasing the crop on the field from the farmer.

The average price which can be given for flax, is £8 per arpent; that is, £6 for the fibre and £2 for the seed, and this price will repay the farmer better than any other crop he can raise at present.

One flax mill should employ forty people, and would require 500 to 1000 arpents of flax to keep it in regular work throughout the year.

I propose erecting such an establishment at Lachine Rapids, should the farmers of the neighbourhood, and the Agricultural Society offer encouragement by using their influence to induce 100 farmers to sow an arpent each as an experiment, and should that succeed, self interest on both sides, will increase the quantity to the desirable extent, for it is not contemplated that the cultivation would extend beyond five or ten arpents on each farm, so as to make it a rotation crop.

I understand that Brewers, when first in-