

in winter, under shelter, it affords comfortable and profitable labour at a time when it is much required. 75 lb. to 100 lb. is deemed a moderate day's work.

**Water Rotting.**—Water Rotting of Hemp is a more tedious and expensive mode, and is well-known by all who have prepared flax by this process; a pool or pond is formed by the side of a stream, and the hemp bundles are immersed, being kept down by poles or otherwise. When the process of rotting is sufficiently advanced, which is known by the fibre separating freely from the stock, the bundles are removed from the pool and dried, and are then ready for the Break. Hemp prepared by this process is superior in colour to the Dew Rotted.

#### DRESSING.

Hemp may be dressed at any Flax Dressing Mill, slackening a little the screws that keep down the upper rollers; or with the common old-fashioned flax break, worked by hand. When "broken" the hemp may be scutched with the flax scutching knives, or revolving pulleys, or with a common hand scutching knife.

The work can be done at less expense by machinery. A Flax Mill is estimated to cost from \$300 to \$350, exclusive of water power,—that is a shaft with two pulleys, one for the break and one for the scutchers, a six-roller break, and two scutching pulleys with five knives on each. Hemp requires less scutching than flax. There is a roof over the machinery, without sides, so as to allow free exit to the dust. On account of the great length of the fibre, which would trail on the ground, it is necessary to have the scutching pulleys raised higher than for flax, the shaft being at least 4 feet from the floor of the mill. The men who scutch stand on stools.

#### MARKETING.

The price of Hemp Fibre, like that of other marketable commodities, depends upon the quality of the article and the state of the market at the time. For the ensuing season, the Dartmouth Rope Work Company consider  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound weight, as the price they can give for *Staple Clean Water Rotted Hemp*, delivered at the Rope Factory, at Dartmouth. Hemp is likewise bought by the Rope Factories at St. John, Quebec, Montreal, and other places.

#### PRIZES OFFERED BY THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

A Prize of \$50 is offered to the person who shall grow the Greatest Acreage of Hemp in the Province during the ensuing season, notice to be given to the Secretary of the Board by intending competitors in time to allow inspection of the standing crop, and not later than the 1st of July, 1870, and a fair sample of

the crop to be sent to the Board not later than the end of September, 1870.

A Prize of \$50 for the best sample of prepared Hemp Fibre, in quantity of ten hundred weight, to be sent to Halifax in time for the half-yearly meeting of the Board in March, 1871.

A Prize of \$10 for the best bushel of Hemp Seed, raised by the competitor in Nova Scotia, and sent to the Board at Halifax not later than the end of Sept., 1870. The fibre and seed will remain the property of competitors, whether successful or not.

The Board of Agriculture having imported a limited quantity of Hemp Seed, persons desirous of entering upon Hemp Culture, experimentally or otherwise, may obtain a supply of seed in bags of about two bushels each at \$5 per bag. One bag is sufficient for an acre.

Applications for Seed may be made to Joseph J. Northup, Esq., or to the Secretary of the Board.

By direction of the Board of Agriculture,  
GEO. LAWSON, Sec'y.  
Halifax, 1st April, 1870.

#### Communications.

#### RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS WITH FYFE WHEAT.

The Board of Agriculture have exerted themselves during the last few years to obtain for our farmers Seed Wheat and other grains adapted for the country, in order, if possible, to encourage the more general culture of Cereals. A gentleman who purchased some of the Fyfe Wheat imported by the Board in 1868, reports as follows. Our correspondent is a well-known gentleman of position and respectability in an Agricultural community, not far from Kentville. We should like to add the weight of his name to the statement, but we find a note at the top of the manuscript, "don't put my name to this." We can only therefore assure our readers that it is thoroughly reliable:—

"We procured 2 bushels of Fyfe Wheat from you in 1868. That spring—if you remember—was remarkably wet, so much so that I could not get the seed in the ground until the 17th of June. The farmers around thought it waste of land and time, but the yield astonished them. We had 38 bushels from the 2, and we kept it all and next year distributed to people whom we knew would give it a fair trial and be careful of it. This last year it produced well, turning out very near a bushel to the stook, the kinds of course were as usual. We made several who got the wheat keep some of it apart to thrash separately, and the result was same as stated above."

#### HEMP CULTURE.

We reprint in the present number, the Circular issued by a Committee of the Board of Agriculture. Copies have been sent to all the Agricultural Societies. In the House of Assembly the members for Lunenburg and some other Counties have interested themselves in the matter, and distributed the Circular among their constituents. Additional copies are being thrown off to meet the demand. We trust the Hon. Mr. Ferguson will excuse the liberty we take with the following private note, which we print by way of suggestion to the Representatives of Agricultural communities:—

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
April 7th, 1870.

Dear Sir,—If you can spare 50 copies or more, of your Circular on "Hemp Culture," it will afford me much pleasure to circulate them among my constituents in Cape Breton. The matter is of great importance and deserves the earnest attention of our farmers, and, indeed, of all classes of our people.

I am, dear sir,  
your obed't. servant,  
JOHN FERGUSON.

#### MOWING MACHINES AND WHERE TO BUY THEM.

BY HENRY E. DECIE, ESQ., WILMOT, ANN.

In the last six years I have had two mowers, one a Buckeye made by Messrs. Harris and Allen, St. Johns, N. B., the other a Junior Ohio made at Hall's Agricultural Implement Factory, Oshawa, Ontario. The Buckeye cost \$90, the Ohio Junior \$80, but the freight being greater on the one than the other, made them cost me about the same. The Buckeye, after four years wear was in such good condition, and known to do such good work that I sold it for \$82. I look upon it as nearly equal to Wood's mower in smooth ground, and superior to it in rough ground. The Ohio Junior I think equal to Wood's in smooth ground and far superior to it in rough. I make the comparison with Wood's mower because a great many have been imported last year at a much higher price than either of the others can be bought for of our own manufacturers, and because the greater part of our mowing lands being rough require a suitable implement. The Junior Ohio I have used for two seasons; in smooth land it shaves the ground. I have worked it on land full of cradle hills, ant hills, mole hills, land full of stumps and stones and large rocks, and in other places intersected with ditches, and where for want of draining the horses sank fetlock deep. I have brought it up all standing scores of times on stumps and stones. I have