head of cattle. On the west side have also been erected new sheep and pig sheds and a capacious carriage house. The dimensions of the former are 300 feet by 12, the capacity being sufficient to accommodate about 500 animals. The carriage shed is 400 feet long by 16 wide, and will, no doubt, afford ample room for the class of manufactures which it is intended to accommodate. The old horse stables at the south end of the grounds are in pretty good condition and will require but few repairs. The range is 660 feet long, and can house comfortably about two hundred animals. The ventilation, however, is very imperfect, but the evil will be remedied to some extent by cutting an aperture in each door and inserting therein a strong wire grating, which will also increase the facilities for viewing the horses. Another old range of stables, on the east side, is in a very dilapidated condition, and extensive repairs and alterations are needed to render the stables serviceable. It is believed, however, that they will not be required, but it is the intention of the committee to have them thoroughly repaired in case the other stables should prove insufficient to accommodate all the horses entered for exhibition. This second range is 300 feet long, and when put in order will house about one hundred animals. On either side of the Mechanics' Hall are two tiers of poultry coops, each 108 feet long, and containing 54 compartments—the whole four tiers being capable of holding upwards of two hundred pairs of fowls. These coops are in a fair state of preservation, and need very few repairs to render them secure. In addition to the buildings already noticed, it is intended to erect another, to be devoted to various purposes. It will be 35 feet long and 20 wide, and will comprise, among other apartments, a refreshment room and a retiring room for the ladies. All the buildings on the ground are substantial permanent structures, and when the repairs and improvements they are now undergoing are completed, will compare favorably with any similar buildings in Upper Canada. Mr. Power, the architect, and the contractors, Messrs. Brown, Robinson, and R. M. Horsey, are pushing forward the work in their respective departments with great vigor, and in a few weeks everything—so far as the buildings and ground are concerned—will be in readiness for the coming Provincial Exhibition.

FLAX.

We had the pleasure of seeing, a few days ago, two or three very fine samples of flax, in the green, nearly mature state, just pulled from the ground; one of the samples, furnished by Mr. J. A. Donaldson, having been grown on the farm of Mr. Robert Watson, of Whitby, and the others furnished by Mr. Mitchell, of Norval, grown on farms in that vicinity. These samples are about 3½ feet in length, and the fields from which they were taken present a beautiful, even crop, which would be considered excellent in any flax producing country. Mr. Donaldson estimates that the Whitby field will produce 20 bushels of seed to the acre, and fully 500 lbs. of scutched fibre. This, at $1.5 per bushel for the seed, and only 10 cents per lb. for the fibre, will give the nice return of $80 per acre, an amount not easily realized from farm crops. The crops at Norval are represented as equally good. Experiments in flax culture are rapidly convincing the farmers that it will soon be found the most remunerative crop that they can cultivate.

TREATMENT AND CULTURE OF THE POTATO, WITH REFERENCE TO THE PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

Although we have not heard as yet that the Potato disease has manifested itself to any serious extent in Canada, it may not be unseasonable, *judging from the past*, to call the attention of our readers to some facts recently observed by distinguished men in Europe in reference to one of the most difficult problems belonging to scientific and practical agriculture.

Much *interesting information has lately* been elicited in connection with this important subject, of which we purpose here to give a brief *resumé*. At one of the Council Meetings of the Royal Agricultural Society of England attention was directed to a method of treating potatoes for "sets," discovered accidentally by Professor Bollmann, of St. Petersburgh. The process consists of subjecting the potatoes to a high temperature, which dries and shrivels them. Even when this was carried to the "chaning point," the vitality of the tubers was not destroyed, for some which were planted much change produced as *good a crop as those which were* merely shrivelled. This method of heating potatoes was discovered in 1853, and so completely established does it seem in practice that it is stated that in Russia on many estates, drying houses are being erected. The principle seems to be the getting rid of the superfluous moisture which is found in all potatoes affected, or predisposed to be affected, by the disease, of which moisture is said to be always in excess.