

and oil cake from flax or linseed. Owing to the greatly increased breadth of land sown with flax in Upper Canada the last few years, of which the present one promises to exceed all former years, any difficulty which might previously have existed in obtaining a sufficiency of the seed, is at once obviated. The consumption of oil in this Province is necessarily very large, and the demand is at present supplied from England and the United States, with the exception of that manufactured at Quebec and Montreal, C.E., and Bridgeport, C. W., which forms a very insignificant portion. The manufacture has been found very remunerative. It is evident that the oil manufactured within an easy distance of where the seed is grown, can be sold to much better advantage than oil which bears the necessary expense of freight and other charges from England, and has to pay a duty of twenty per cent. before going into consumption; it is also certain that the cake will meet with ready sale at remunerative rates, on account of its well known fattening qualities, and being particularly adapted for milch cows; this fact being fully established in England, the quantity and quality of the milk and butter produced from the use of it being remarkable.

There is not a doubt of the success of this enterprize, as the want of an oil mill has long been felt in this city and its vicinity. Toronto is admirably situated for the purpose, being the chief seat of trade in Upper Canada, and being a distributing point, and in a central position commanding the trade of Upper Canada, offers superior inducements for the erection of mills at this point.

The cultivation of flax in Canada will add very materially to our resources, and the Government being alive to the importance of the subject, have done a great deal to assist private enterprize in developing this rapidly growing trade. It remains only to erect the necessary machinery to avail ourselves of the advantages of our position, to retain within ourselves the benefits of a manufacture which is protected by so large a duty, and is in such demand, besides assisting the general progress of the country. The profits to be obtained have been satisfactorily ascertained by parties of great experience in the trade, and *allowing liberally for all contingencies*, twenty-five per cent. is confidently expected.

#### MACHINE STRETCHED LEATHER BELTING.

Our motto is "Encourage Home Manufactures," by purchasing them in preference to imported goods, whenever they can be obtained of good quality and at fair market prices. This is a truly patriotic principle that all who desire the well-being of their country should endeavour to carry out, and will be sure to re-act to the benefit of the purchaser, as well as the manufacturer and the public generally; for by such means will capital be kept

in the province — manufacturing communities created to furnish home markets for agriculturists — surplus populations of cities and towns not adapted to agricultural pursuits furnished remunerative employment — and a certain degree of independence of foreign nations for supplies of the necessaries of life established.

The machine shops and factories of the province use large quantities of *machine stretched cemented and riveted leather belting*, heretofore bought principally from our neighbours on the south side of the lakes. Mr. J. C. McLaren, of Montreal, has just forwarded to the Museum of Manufactures of the Board of Arts in Toronto, a card of several samples of this description of belting of his own manufacture, comprising widths from 3 to 12 inches, single and double; round twisted lathe belting; and rounded leather cord to be used for all purposes for which ordinary sash-cord is used.

This belting is of excellent quality, and can be seen at the Board Rooms by any person who may desire to examine it. Price lists for the various kinds of belting, and also of different sizes of fire-engine hose manufactured by him, are attached.

If the manufacturers in all new branches of industry in the province would follow the example of Mr. McLaren and a few others, in sending specimens of their productions to the Board, a very interesting museum of home manufactures would shortly be formed, which would afford to strangers visiting us a good idea of our manufacturing capabilities; and to the contributors themselves a medium for submitting their productions to the criticisms of the public. Mr. McLaren's advertisement appears on the cover of the journal.

#### MECHANICS' INSTITUTES RE-UNIONS.

When in the winter of 1862-3 the managers of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute first originated a series of entertainments for their members, of an amusing as well as instructive character, under the appropriate name of *Re-Unions*, they conferred a benefit on other Institutes besides their own. These gatherings have not only become very popular, but profitable, promising to be of great pecuniary benefit to the impoverished treasuries of many of these useful Institutions.

We notice that the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute held the first of a series of these Re-Unions on the evening of the 6th instant, when the Directors were gratified by having their large Hall "filled almost to overflowing," and no doubt realised a very handsome profit therefrom.

These entertainments were suggested to the Hamilton Institute by a letter from the President