



Fig. 3.

Ontario during the past year is said to have been from eight to nine bushels per acre, and the weight of straw has averaged about $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons. The fibre manufactured in Canada finds a ready market in the United States and in England.

To grow flax successfully for fibre, a moist climate is said to be necessary. In a season when the rainfall is deficient, as it was in some sections of Ontario during 1895, the fibre produced is smaller in quantity and is inferior in quality. There are from 40 to 45 scutching mills in Western Ontario where flax fibre is produced, and each mill will work up from 300 to 600 acres of flax, which usually produces an average of 3,000 to 3,500 lbs. of straw per acre. The quantity of seed sown in Ontario is about 80 lbs. per acre, which is said to be sufficient to cover the ground well and produce a thick growth, giving a long and straight straw which yields a fibre of good quality. Fig. 3 represents a plant of a crop thus grown, mainly for fibre. The seed is sown from the middle of April to the middle of May, commonly by a broadcast machine, but sometimes by hand, and the seed is covered by a light harrowing. Where flax is grown for its fibre it is always pulled in harvesting. There are two methods followed in the raising of this crop. In one the proprietors of the mills rent the land on which flax is to be grown at from \$8 to \$10 per acre. The farmer in this arrangement prepares the ground by ploughing and harrowing, and the owner of the mills grows and harvests the crop. In the other case, the farmer grows and harvests the crop and sells it to the proprietors of the mills usually at \$10 per ton for the dried crop, selling the seed with the straw. When the season is favourable and the land in good condition for this crop, it is not uncommon for the farmer to grow from two to three tons per acre. In some localities men are employed in pulling; in others the larger part of this work is done by women and children. The cost of pulling is usually from \$4.00 to \$5 per acre. A man who is a good puller can make from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day at this work. The women earn from 75 cents to \$1 per day, and children from 10 to 15 years of age from 30 to 75 cents per day. The crop as pulled is tied in bundles or small sheaves, which are placed for a time in stooks in the field and when dry it is drawn to the storehouses. It is threshed by the use of a special machine which separates the seed without injuring the fibre in the straw, and the straw is subsequently rotted and scutched and the fibre thus prepared for the market. The average yield of seed in