

when all other industries that have stood in need of inventive talent have been pushed to the highest state of perfection, and we are not surprised to learn that finally some master mind has met and solved the problem. This should awaken much greater interest in Canada when we have had time after time proofs convincing that Canadian flax fibre is equal in many ways to the best produced in countries celebrated for its culture. Therefore it is a source to be greatly regretted when we are apprised of the fact that 2,000,000 tons of flax straw are burned or wasted this year in the three Prairie Provinces of Western Canada, amounting to over \$80,000,000 if manufactured into fibre, which could be handled with but little labor under advanced methods. The old way of converting flax into linen fabric required sixteen to thirty weeks, while the new process machines make all of this work possible within twelve to twenty-four hours. "Instead of expending \$4,325,000 a year to get linen from Europe, Canada might make this linen at home and give employment to thousands of hands, thereby also giving the farmers the benefit of the money spent abroad."

PERSONAL INVESTIGATION ON THE UTILIZATION OF FLAX STRAW

"On February 6th, the writer, in company with Ex-Mayor R. D. Waugh, went to Duluth, Minn., where is located the experimental plants of the Western Linen Mills, a company formed for the purpose of working out patented processes for producing linen yarns, threads and fabrics from flax straw, particularly straw grown in the Northwest.

"The manager of the Western Linen Mills, showed us through the plant, a factory that, with the machinery in use, has cost the men who engaged in this enterprize about \$50,000. The manager went into the matters of material, processes and production with us very thoroughly, and gave us every opportunity to see this experimental plant in actual operation. We were thus able to see the flax straw as it was taken from the threshing machine, treated and worked upon wholly by machinery, until it was turned out in finished products of yarn, twine and linen fabric. Stated briefly the processes of the Western Linen Mills comprise mechanical operations which take the place of the slow, tedious work that is done by hand in the flax fields and mills of the old