

UNITED STATES.

Year	Acreage	Yield	Acre yield
1910.....	2,916,000	14,116,000	4.8
1909.....	2,742,000	25,856,000	9.4
1908.....	2,679,000	25,805,000	9.6
1907.....	2,864,000	25,851,000	9.0
1906.....	2,506,000	25,576,000	10.2
1905.....	2,535,000	28,477,000	11.2
1904.....	2,264,000	23,400,000	10.3
1903.....	2,233,000	27,300,000	12.2
1902.....	3,740,000	29,285,000	7.8

Average yield for nine years..... 9.2

Why Flax is a Popular Crop.

There are three good reasons for supposing that the rapid increase in the flax area of Saskatchewan revealed above will continue. One is the very satisfactory price that has been realised for flaxseed for a number of years past and particularly during the last twelve or fifteen months. Another is the comparatively small bulk of the product of an acre of this crop as compared with wheat or oats; this is an important consideration to men who must haul their grain 40, 50 or 60 miles to the nearest railway station or who must store it on the farm until the coming of winter affords them an opportunity to market it. The third reason is found in the fact that flax is the only grain crop that gives a satisfactory return as a rule when grown upon virgin prairie land in the same season that the land is first ploughed. Many assert that this latter practice—growing flax on freshly ploughed breaking—is poor farming and that the person following it is no farther ahead at the end of, say, three years than if the breaking had been left fallow throughout the first season. This may or may not be true as a general rule; it is a practice that will not be recommended in this bulletin, in any case. The fact must be borne in mind, however, in this connection that many of the settlers taking up virgin land in Saskatchewan have little capital and few resources. Any method of farming that offers to such men a reasonable certainty of quick and profitable returns is worthy of their serious and perhaps favourable consideration provided no permanent damage to their virgin farm is involved. Such men can perhaps afford to sacrifice a little advantage in later years, if such must be, in order to secure the speedy returns that the sowing of flax on newly ploughed breaking offers. For this reason, provided the flaxseed used is free from the seeds of noxious weeds and from flax wilt, this practice is not to be unhesitatingly or sweepingly condemned.

The only bad effect attributed to the growing of flax upon freshly ploughed breaking is on the decomposition or rotting of the prairie sod. It is freely asserted by some that the mechanical condition, or tilth, of the field which has undergone this treatment is not as good for a decade afterwards as it would have been had the field been left fallow