

vince additional population and capital. To the Political Economist belongs "the science of the laws which regulate the production, accumulation, distribution and consumption of those articles or products that are necessary, useful or agreeable to man, or possess an exchangeable value; its object is to point out the means by which the industry of man may be rendered most productive of wealth, and to ascertain the circumstances most favorable to its accumulation, &c."

A general desire for wealth seems natural to men in a civilized state. The wants of man impel him to labour to create a supply, and this supply is procured, as is wealth, by the application of labour to the matter which nature supplies. The combination of labour and matter is the means of production of not only the actual necessities and luxuries of life, but of that wealth which all individuals and nations are in pursuit of.

In Canada, the nature of the climate is such as to drive out of work numbers of persons during the winter months, and to provide employment for such would be a sure way of adding to the national wealth. Matter to be acted on profitably by labour is abundant. The soil forms part of such matter; but not only does the soil contribute to it, but the very atmosphere is a bountiful giver. In no production is this so well exemplified as in flax fibre; it is solely the production of that element. The soil contribute the various materials of which the "boon" or shave, and also the seed, is formed; but the fibre, which is the valuable portion of the plant, is only composed of or created by air and water. Burn it and it leaves nothing behind; but burn the seed or the shove, and ashes are produced, which contain all the solid mineral matter extracted from the soil. To develop such resources is surely a work not unworthy of the Political Economist and Legislator—he will not be required to descend into the detailed operations; but let him devise a system and provide the means necessary to aid it. Of the importance of the various branches of this trade so much has been already presented, that it is almost needless to allude to that part of the subject.

The object of the writer of this article is to demonstrate the amount of wealth which may be realized out of this business in Canada, by showing what it has done for other countries, by pointing out the circumstances and exertions which led to the successful establishment of the linen trade in Ireland—in order to prompt to reflection some of the legislative wisdom of the Province, to devise plans to aid in forwarding and encouraging the cultivation of flax, and the manufacture of its products here. There is no part of this plant but

is convertible into some use. It consists of the boon, shove or straw, the fibre, the resinous gum which binds the straw and fibre together, &c. The seed producing oil, mucilage, food and medicine. The fibre is the most valuable of all the constituent parts, and the greatest amount of money is made by those countries where the fibre alone is made the object. The straw, boon or shove, separated from the fibre produces fuel, which is found a useful and economical means of raising steam at factories where the flax is prepared, whilst the ashes left from it, containing all the matter extracted from the soil, is capable of restoring again to it much of the fertilizing qualities of which it has been robbed by the production of the crop. The resinous gum which bound the straw and fibre together, has been carefully collected and utilized as food; and the water in which flax is prepared by decomposition, has been found to be a most valuable liquid manure. The seed-bolls afford the husks which can be made useful as food for cattle, and also contain a gummy mucilage. The seed produces oil, meal, and cake for food, and mucilage. The use of Linseed for outward and inward applications, is well known to medical men. None of the parts of the plant are useless—though, owing to want of economical means of preparation, some of them may not be found worth the labour they would cost.

The writer has not at hand statistics as complete as he would desire, to enable him to detail the particulars of the money value of Linseed, within the last few years; and it has increased greatly from what it was at the time of the returns he is obliged now to content himself with. The oil cake imported into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, was in 1849, 59,462 tons; 1850, 65,051 tons; 1851, 55,076 tons; 1852, 53,616 tons.

In 1849, oil cake to the value of \$111,000 was exported from the one port of Shanghai, in China.

In 1856 England imported about \$16,000,000 worth of flax seed for sowing and oil crushing, and in the same year nearly \$2,000,000 worth of the same kind of seed was imported into Boston. In that year the United States imported linseed oil from England alone, to the value of \$700,000; and in 1859 of the seed itself to the amount of nearly \$2,500,000, chiefly from the East Indies. In 1850 the flax mills of the United Kingdom "were able to spare for foreign countries between three and four millions of yards of linen, besides lace, thread and yarn, to the value of about a million and a quarter sterling" (Dodd's Curiosities of Industry). The same author writes that—"the value of the seed wasted in Ireland in 1851