

well performed by a private company, but in that case, the receipts would not be available to the farmers so readily as if they had the guarantee of the Government.

From the calculation of Mr. Bouchette as given above, there is no doubt that the export of hemp and flax (as both might be afforded the same advantage,) would soon reach \$10,000,000 per annum, without materially decreasing the exports of wheat and flour. To promote the cultivation of these articles it has been suggested, that a model farm should be purchased by Government, where the capabilities of soil might be tested, and the best methods of cultivation made known. We are free to admit that such establishments have, as a general rule, proved utter failures, and their introduction here would be a very questionable policy. The publication of a simple essay on the culture and preparation of hemp and flax, and a reward offered for the best portable flax mill would probably do more to forward the objects in view than ten thousand pounds expended by a few costly *experimenters*, who might possibly think it a matter of vast importance that the simple farmers of our back townships should know the Latin and German names of the various products of the farm.

OILING HARNESS.

We find in the *New England Farmer* a valuable communication from Mr. J. Hart, of Portsmouth, N. H., in which he gives his method of cleansing, colouring, and oiling harness, which we think may be of use to our readers, so we publish it:—

We all know that it is a great benefit to oil our harness, yet many of us neglect to do it, because we regard it as a dirty job, but it is easy enough if done right. My process for doing it is as follows: 1st. I take the harness apart, having each strap and piece by itself, then I wash it in warm soap-suds. I used to soak it in cold water for half a day, as others did, but I found that warm water does not injure the harness and facilitates the job. When cleaned, I black every part with a harmless black dye, which I make thus: One ounce of logwood, twelve grains bichromate of potash both pounded fine; upon that I pour two quarts of boiling rain water, stirring until all is dissolved. When cool it may be used. I keep it on hand all the time in bottles. It may be applied with a shoe brush or anything else convenient. If any one objects to the use of this blacking, fearing that the bichromate of potash it contains would injure the leather, I would just say that this kind of potash will not injure leather, even when used in a much larger proportion. The blacking generally used contains copperas—a sulphate sometimes made of oil of vitrol and iron, and it will eat out the life of leather, unless used with great caution. When the dye has struck in, I go through with the oiling process; some have a sheet iron pan to oil in, which is better than any thing, but I have a sheet of iron nailed to a board, about two or three feet square. This I put on a table, and lay a piece or part of the harness upon it, and with neats-foot oil applied with a paint brush kept for the purpose, I go over it, oiling every part, and thus proceed until every part is oiled. The traces, breeching, and such parts as need oil most, I oil again. For the last oiling I use one-third castor oil and two-thirds neats-foot oil, mixed. A few hours after, or perhaps the next day, I wipe the harness over with a woollen cloth, which gives it a glossy appearance. Why I use castor oil for the last coat is, because it will stand the effect of the atmosphere, the rain, &c., much longer than neats foot oil, consequently the harness does not require oiling so often by its use. One pint of oil is sufficient for one set of harness.

The common way of oiling harness, is to apply as much neats-foot oil containing lampblack as the leather will take up, then washing off with castile soap and water. This way is not so good as mine, because it makes the harness smutty, and also, the soap that is used contains barilla, a strong alkali, which cuts up and feeds upon the oil in the leather, and weather, especially if rainy, soon renders the harness stiff and unyielding as before; the wax in the thread is also destroyed and the stitching gives way. I have experimented with different kinds of oil, and find that the kind and the process I now use is the best.