

the ground as for oats, or spring wheat. Do all the dragging before sowing. Sow from 12 to 28 quarts per acre, as you desire your hay fine or coarse. After the sowing a very light wooden-tooth drag will do, but if the ground is in a right state (dryish) a roller is better. If the soil is fine and you can sow immediately before a heavy rain, neither dragging nor rolling is required. Sow whenever it is the right time to plant corn. It is like corn, and will not grow until corn would, and frost will kill it as quickly. Time of harvesting, ninety days from sowing. It will not do to sow it as a seeding crop for other grasses to follow, as its growth is so dense, as to overtop, shade and destroy every thing else, even weeds.

Flax Manufacture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER

SIR, Twenty years ago there was little or no word about growing flax in Canada. Then, and until lately, we could get any amount of cotton goods. This is all changed now Cotton is not only king but rules without mercy. He charges what he likes and gets what he charges. Cotton warp yarn was wont to be about one dollar and a quarter the bunch, now it is no less than three dollars and a quarter. Whether flax is destined to take the place of cotton to some extent time can only tell, but I have seen as good linsey-woolsey in Scotland as I ever saw cotton-wincey in Canada. The supply of cotton, hemp and flax should keep pace with the increase of population. Is it doing so? I rather doubt it. Only look at the population of Canada now and twenty years ago, and the rest of America besides. It cannot be supposed that the flax-growing countries of Europe are clearing new acres as the population of the world is going on. Hence we must grow flax whether we will or not. It is a common complaint in the mother country that enough of the raw material cannot be got. And it is not very much wonder since one town alone in Scotland, in 1839, imported no less than 52,462 tons of flax and hemp, and had 41 spinning mills in full blast, while young Canada has only yet one in embryo.

There is one fact which ought to have a good deal of weight in promoting the growth of flax, and that is the great expence of importing and exporting all the flax and hemp goods which the Canadian people purchase. In the first place the most of the raw material is imported from Russia into Britain. Then it goes into the hands of the wholesale merchant, he sells it to the mill spinner; the mill spinner sells the yarn to the cloth manufacturer, and he sells to the wholesale merchant again, who exports it to the wholesale merchant of America; and he again sells it to our storekeepers. Look at the expence thus caused, added to which is freight and transportation to our doors. I could buy for about five pence in the home market that for which I pay about a quarter dollar in Canada. Let us therefore both grow and manufacture our own flax.

JAMES BUIK

Nicholl, April 6, 1864.

Flax Prospects.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Seeing the deep interest you have taken since you commenced the publication of your valuable agricultural journal, in furnishing your readers every item of information likely to be of interest to those disposed to attempt the growth and manufacture of flax, it will be encouraging for you to know that such information has not been without most beneficial results. From twenty to thirty new scutching mills are in course of construction in different parts of the Province, and many more parties are making preparations for raising flax the present season. Seed has been liberally offered by parties who intend to manufacture flax, to the farmers for sowing.

It is to be regretted that in many parts of the country farmers have been compelled to plough up their lands where they sowed fall wheat last autumn, in many cases owing to the openness of the winter and the effect of the frost in the spring. To those thus circumstanced I would say, such lands will be admir-

ably adapted for flax; and if they will only follow the instructions given from time to time in letters, written both in the papers and in THE CANADA FARMER, they will find their loss will be in a great measure made up.

The demand for seed has been so great this spring, that already many parties have been compelled to send to Montreal; and from what I can learn, a quantity has been brought from the States and offered for sale in Toronto. Last week a large meeting was held in Weston, when Mr. Walker delivered a lecture on this important subject. A number of the respectable and intelligent agriculturists of the Townships of York and Etobicoke were present. So much interest was manifested as to encourage Mr. John Dennis to prepare to put up a mill on the river, Humber, where he has an excellent water power. He has secured a hundred bushels of prime seed, and is distributing it on liberal terms to those who wish to make trial of this crop. The price of seed alone is, or ought to be, great encouragement to the farmers for sowing. At present it is \$2.50 per bushel, and the ordinary price after harvest is \$1.50, just double the present price for spring wheat.

J. A. DONALDSON.

Spring Mount, Weston. |
April 25, 1864. |

[NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The season has been so wet and backward, that it is not yet too late in many localities to sow flax on well prepared soil.]

Canadian Flax and Linen.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR, I wish to agitate the cultivation of FLAX, about which you have already written so much. I see from the papers, that in many parts of Europe, flax is manufactured to a large extent and very successfully, it being mixed with wool and cotton. Now that it has been shown that flax can be raised in this country, as well as any other part of the world, it seems very desirable that our farmers should turn their attention to it especially as Canada is so large a consumer, which the following statement from the public accounts for three years will show.

	VALUE	DUTY.
Importations of Linen for 1360	\$261,824	52,364.21
" " " 1861	341,942	68,323.27
" " " 1862	322,844	64,568.59
	\$926,610.	185,256.07

The value of flax in all its various fabrics throughout the civilized world, is estimated at twenty millions sterling per annum. What a source of industry and wealth to Canada, if the farmers generally were to give it a fair trial. If our Government were to give sufficient encouragement in importing scutching mills, and manufacturing machinery, I have no doubt but farmers generally would make the attempt on a small scale to raise flax, until by experience they could do so more successfully on a larger scale. If the agricultural societies of Canada were to petition the Government on this subject, I have no doubt but what reasonable assistance might be obtained from that source. The flax that was exhibited at the Kingston Exhibition last fall, was said to be equal to any that was imported, the fibres appeared to be as fine, as white, and as strong as the imported article. It may be impossible to manufacture the finest fabrics at present, yet the coarser kinds could easily be manufactured, for making bags, sails, bedticks, &c., much cheaper than the imported linens. I hope therefore, that this present season an attempt will be made to raise a large quantity of this staple article, if so, I have no doubt but means will be taken to manufacture it.

E. McG

Ottawa, April 14, 1864.

Mr. Blesard's Drains.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Our district happens to be a very flat heavy clay soil, very wet, and at the same time almost destitute of draining material. Moreover we are very poor. It appears to us, however, that Mr. Blesard's suggestion contained in No. 6, might be carried out to some extent, if he would only favour us with a more minute explanation of his manner of constructing his wooden pipes. Is each pipe made with four

or only three sides? If only three, then of course we presume the 4th side of such a pipe will be the bottom of the drain. If he makes the pipes with four sides of wood, and bevels the one into the other, it appears to us, that the joints might become too close, and thus prevent the ingress of water. This may appear to Mr. B. and yourself, Mr Editor, a childish enquiry but the fact is we are childish farmers having been more accustomed to handle the shuttle, and the awl, than the spade and the plough. Instructions are much required and will be thankfully received.

D. & E. B.

Mornington, April 18th, 1864.

Wild Oats.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Mr. Burton's bill to prevent the spreading of Canada Thistles is indeed a good one, and well calculated to stop the progress of one source of great trouble to the farmers. It would be well if some patriotic member would bring a similar bill before parliament to prevent the spreading of *Wild Oats*, as they are much more to be dreaded and more prejudicial to the interests of farmers in the Township of Fullerton, and in fact to the farmers of a great part of the County of Perth, than Canada thistles, bad as they are. But, as there is no probability of a legislative enactment to prevent their growth and spreading this season, you Mr. Editor, would confer a great boon upon the farmers along the Thames road, and others no doubt, by giving the best directions, in your opinion, for their extirpation, and also by inviting the numerous readers and correspondents of the FARMER to write essays on the best method of eradicating them. Mr. Editor, perhaps you do not know how stubborn they are, some people say their roots will go to the depth of several feet into the ground, others say they will even grow after being boiled in a pot, this may be an absurdity, but one thing is certain, they go deep enough, and travel fast enough to be a dreadful nuisance. I would further ask what punishment ought to be inflicted upon the evil disposed person or persons, who sowed wild oats broadcast over the fields of a respectable farmer in this neighbourhood, while people slumbered and slept?

H. S. J. M

Fullerton, April 8, 1864

Vitality of Seeds.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—The remarks on the vitality of turnip seed on page 77 of the CANADA FARMER copied from the *English Agricultural Gazette* are all gammon.—I have sown turnip seed for 23 years and have annually proved its vitality by first sowing 100 seeds in a flower pot and the result has invariably been from 96 to 100 plants from 100 seeds of one year old; I have at the present moment sixty-eight plants from 100 seeds gathered in the year 1856, showing 68 per cent of vitality in turnip seed eight years old, a very different result from that given in the English paper. While on the subject of seed, I may observe that it is a common subject of complaint amongst farmers, gardeners, and florists, that dealers occasionally victimize them by selling seed that wont grow, or that grows very indifferently.—Whether the dealers are deceived by their suppliers, or whether they sell the remnants of previous years, the loss to the public is all the same, and the party who organizes a protection society to teach delinquents better manners, will be a general benefactor. For the information of your correspondent on page 88, I give my experience with sulphur. I dust the turnip seed early in the winter with sulphur, and allow three pounds of seed to the acre. I have never failed to raise a crop. Other successful growers will probably oblige by imparting their experience.

CINCINNATUS.