

years since, and to-day there are no less than forty scutching mills in Ontario. In 1877, the area of flax grown amounted to from 12,000 to 15,000 acres, the product of which amounted to something like 130,000 to 140,000 bushels of seed, and somewhere about 1,200 to 1,500 tons of flax, representing, when sold, a return of nearly half a million of dollars. There are large sections of country in Ontario admirably adapted for flax growing, and which are not so well suited for other crops. For the past two years the flax trade has been dull, in common with many other industries, but there is now quite a revival, and prices, as well as the demand, are improving. The existing machinery for seed crushing is double the present requirements, and the home market would consume a large additional quantity of produce. The flax has usually found a market in the United States, but the demand for home consumption is increasing. The flax trade in its various branches is one of great promise in the Province of Ontario. At present there is no flax spinning mill in Canada working—exclusively flax. There is an excellent opening for this branch of industry in Stratford, as all or nearly all the flax mills in Ontario surround Stratford, and are at an average distance from Stratford, of about twenty miles, all of which can be reached by the Grand Trunk Railway and its branches, radiating from Stratford.

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## Insurance.

THE principal Insurance Companies doing business in Canada are represented in our town, and accordingly no fear need be entertained but that the lowest current rates will be obtained on first class risks. The following is a list of the Companies represented :