

specimen, measuring fourteen feet in length to the Hemp Committee at Montreal. He also sent two samples of the seed with two bundles of the hemp to the Society of Arts, and was complimented in return, as before remarked, with a Silver Medal. From a certificate which he received from the Hemp Committee it appeared that he raised that year eleven parts out of thirteen of the total raised in the Province. Mr. Wright was obliged to discontinue growing hemp on a large scale on account of the expense of preparing it for market, the hemp-peelers charging him one dollar a day, or one bushel of wheat.

In 1806 the British Government offered a bounty for the importation of flax and hemp from the North American Colonies, but the effect does not appear to have been sufficient to have induced an extended cultivation. This may have arisen from the habits and prejudices of the Lower Canadian *Habitans* not being understood, as explained by Bouchette, who was a warm advocate for the cultivation of flax and hemp in Lower Canada. In the appendix to his "British Dominions," he published, in 1835, an article on the probable causes which have counteracted the cultivation of hemp in Lower Canada, together with observations on the most effectual means by which its culture might be encouraged in British North American Provinces.

Among the causes which rendered the cultivation of hemp abortive in Lower Canada was the want of a market where it might be disposed of as raw material. Hemp found no market but in a prepared state. Bouchette recommended the formation of a Company whose agents should receive hemp from the farmer, weigh it, and pay prices fixed upon by the Company. The hemp thus purchased was to be prepared in the agent's mills, packed and stored ready for shipment. In order to innovate as little as possible upon the customs of the *habitants*, Bouchette proposed that they should be allowed to dispose of their hemp in bundles or sheafs weighing 15 lbs. Mr. Greu, quoted by Bouchette, states as the result of his experiments that the native hempseed produces better crops than that imported.

The following tables show what has been done hitherto in the cultivation of flax and hemp in the Province:—

LOWER CANADA.		
Year.	Flax produced.	Linen manufactured.
1717 .....	45,967 lbs.	—
1721 .....	54,650 "	—
1734 ..(Flax Seed)	92,246 "	—
1827 .....	Flax, 1,068,698 "	1,068,696 F. Ells.
1861 .....	Flax or Hemp, 1,189,018 "	929,249 Yards.
UPPER CANADA.		
Year.	Flax or Hemp.	Linen.
1861 .....	69,680 "	14,711 Yards.
1861 .....	1,225,934 "	37,055 "
1862 ... (estimated)	1,500,000 "	—

The last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* has the following on the cultivation of Hemp in Canada, which, although the evil alluded to has passed away, still the argument for the cultivation of this valuable fibre in Canada remains in force, and the evil may soon return if the present signs of the times in Europe are correctly interpreted:—  
 "The growth of hemp in Canada assumes a position of great national importance at the present time, when British supplies have been so seriously checked by the war with Russia. \* \* \* Were our own dominions in North America to supply hemp for our manufacturers in future, instead of our being, as hitherto, so wholly dependent upon Russia for such supply, the change would be attended with signal advantage to both countries."

**Flax Fibre.**

The worth of the annual production of flax fibre throughout the world was estimated three years ago at one hundred million dollars, and of the seed twenty million dollars; but since the outbreak of the Civil War in the United States the price of the raw material has suddenly risen, its production has greatly extended, and its cultivation has received a sudden impetus, so that the entire value of the crop in the old world may now be safely estimated at one hundred and fifty million dollars per annum, with every prospect of a rapid increase.

Russia is the great flax producing country of the world. The cultivation of this plant has been fostered in that empire by successive governments for many hundred years, and in modern times it has won the careful attention and fostering care of the Emperors Nicholas and Alexander. The reward of these wise efforts to establish so valuable an industry as the culture of flax has resulted in the present overwhelming predominance of Russia among the fibre producing countries, since cotton recently received such fearful and calamitous checks.

At the close of the last decade, Russia produced about one-third of the entire amount which came into the markets of the world, and while in 1859 the quantity of flax imported by the United Kingdom amounted to 160,388,144 lbs., of which three-fourths, or 120,340,752 lbs., were supplied by Russia: Egypt, the natural soil of this plant, sent to the United Kingdom only 1,921,696 lbs.; and yet Egypt had her purple and fine linen, and swathed her mummies in almost endless bands of that fabric, when Russia and England were peopled by Nomadic races clad in the skins of beasts.

In Ireland in 1859 there were 139,282 acres under flax, yielding 27,000 tons. In 1860, although the area under crop was less by 8,000 acres than in 1859, yet the yield amounted to 5,000 tons more.