

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
CHAPTER I	
FLAX PLANT AND FIBRE	1
1. Flax Plant—2. Antiquity of Flax Cultivation—3. Modern Flax-producing Countries—4. The Uses of Flax and Seed—5. The Flax Fibre—6. Flax Fibre Characteristics—7. Ultimate Fibre—8. Chemical Composition of Flax Fibres	
CHAPTER II	
FLAX SEED	11
9. Fibre Seed for Sowing—10. Germination—11. Weight—12. Purity—13. Relative Sowing Value—14. Testing Flax Seed for Germination Value—15. Testing Flax Seed for Weight—16. Testing Flax Seed for Moisture—17. Testing for Moisture in Hot Air—18. Sources of Supply and Varieties of Seed—19. Russian Seed—20. Dutch Seed—21. The Sources of Supply of Flax Seed	
CHAPTER III	
CLIMATE AND SOIL	21
22. Climatic Conditions—23. Soil—24. Environment and Crop Production—25. Variety of Growth due to Differences in Soil—26. Variety of Growths on the same Land due to Soil Moisture—27. Exhaustion of Soil—28. Rotation of Crops	
CHAPTER IV	
MANURES	31
29. Plant Foods—30. Artificial Manures—31. Properties of Artificial Manures—32. Nitrate of Soda—33. Muriate of Potash—34. Phosphatic Fertilizers—35. Fresh Stable Manures—36. Belgium and Holland—37. Manurial Experiments	
CHAPTER V	
PREPARATION OF THE LAND	39
38. Preparation of the Land—39. Conditions of Prepared Soil—40. Ploughing and Grubbing—41. Harrowing and Rolling—42. Methods of Procedure	

	PAGE
CHAPTER VI	
SOWING	42
43. Period Selected for Sowing—44. Early Sowing—45. Quantity of Seed per Acre—46. Tabulated Sowing Data—47. Hand and Machine Sowing—48. Details of the "Fiddle"—49. Operation of the Mechanism—50. The Work of the Sower	
CHAPTER VII	
WEEDS AND WEEDING	53
51. Weeds—52. Charlock—53. Redshank—54. Corn Marigold—55. Thistles—56. Field Bindweed—57. Flax Dodder—58. Dock—59. "Clean" Land—60. Detrimental Effects of Weeds—61. Weeding or Cleaning—62. Weed Prevention—63. Flax Pests and Diseases	
CHAPTER VIII	
HARVESTING FLAX	63
64. Harvesting—Possibilities—65. Flax Culture a National Industry—Ireland and Belgium—66. Flax Pulling—67. Hand Pulling—68. Flax-pulling Machines—69. Machine Types—Rotary Drum and Radially Oscillating Combs—70. Puller Belts and "Butting" Mechanism	
CHAPTER IX	
SAVING THE FLAX SEED	77
71. Fibre and Seed—72. Farming Experiments—73. Theory of Imported Seed—74. Experimental Results—75. Harvesting Practices—76. Final Stacking—"Windrows"—77. Deseeding—78. Artificial Heat	
CHAPTER X	
DESEEDING METHODS	86
79. Elimination of Flax Seed or Bolls—80. The Ripple—81. "Ripple" Machinery—82. "Rippling" Operation—83. Rotary Ripple—84. The Hand "Morston"—85. Conveyer Belts and Oscillating Comb—86. Two or Three Rollers—87. Two single Pairs of Rollers—88. Multiple Pairs of Rollers—89. Greeve's Reels—90. Separation of Flax Seed into Different Weights	
CHAPTER XI	
RETTING	101
91. Functions of Retting—92. Experimental Work—93. Laboratory Investigations—94. Retting Practices—95. Pond Retting—96. Idiosyncrasies of Flax Retting—97. Retting in Sluggish Rivers (Lys)—98. Twice Retting—99. Dew Retting—100. Artificial or Warm Water Retting—101. The Dromara Fibre Corporation—Tank Retting—102. Legrand's Warm Water Retting—103. The Rossi Process of Retting—104. Spreading—105. Gaiting	

CONTENTS

ix

CHAPTER XII

	PAGE
SCUTCHING	125
106. Scutching Operations—107. Hand Scutching—108. Flax Straw Butting Machines—109. Breaking the Dry Flax Straw—110. Breaking Rollers—111. Fluted Breaking Rollers—112. Horner's Skeleton Drums—113. Machine Scutching—114. Principle of Scutching and Action of Mechanism—115. Buffing and Cleaning—116. Details of Scutching Wheels—117. Varieties of Adjustment of Blades to Stock—118. The Liddell Automatic Grip—119. The Automatic Scutcher—120. Principle and Operation of Automatic Scutching	

CHAPTER XIII

MARKETING FLAXES	146
121. Buying and Selling of Flaxes—122. Irish Flaxes—123. Belgian Flaxes—124. Flemish Flaxes—125. Walloon Flaxes—126. French Flaxes—127. Conditions of Sale. 128—Russian Flaxes—129. Belgian, Dutch and French Flaxes, Basis of Sale—130. Russian Flaxes, Basis of Sale—131. Examples on Market Equivalents of Flax Prices—132. Summary of Flax Productive Results	
INDEX	153