## Cho Rexajon Statesmon



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## New Fabric manufactured from flax

Flax grownt on the Forf farms in Dearborn is being
into a linen
fabric
with more than twice tho temsil trength of normal cotton．Athough operations at presen are ous an experimentak basis，the new rabric has been used
succestully as a a backing for artificiel leather．Etensive nay
roduction of the new product is the outcome of The proceess of converting this into cioth byiting． the the rotting of the gum－－ilike substance which surrounds he fiber．This was accomplished by allowing the crop to ie on the ground for some time after mowing with an o ＂Thurning to prevent seed sproutting．

The flax is next run through a dryef and a sepatatirg flax fiber．The fiber，drawn into towss，iss，spin into thread hile the seed ath chives are ready to be $m$
＂The fabric woven from flax fiber by the Ford metho
shows an average tensile strength of 60 pounds for cotton．＂
The above is from the＂Ford News，＂house organ of the
$t$ Ford organization． great Ford organization． likely not dictated by one of the chemists or engineers of the ＂The flizix is riext run through a dryer and à separativis． achinie whith refrioves the seed and chives，yietding clear flax fiber，＂the feport says．That can scarcely be．

The process described is that of dew retting．Next must ome the drying，preferably in the sun．No substitute has
et been found for the sun．（But Heñry Ford will likely find one．）Then must come the scutching－getting the fiber from
the straw－ he straw－
And neither is it a＂gum－like substance which surrouinds ide；the chive（or shive）on the inside，and the retting or otting is the eating away by bacteria of the pectin that holds

## The rest of the description is no doubt correct－

 And it is easily imagined that the Ford organizatio ingle thing．Some of the flax farmers and other flax－wise people of
the Salem district will wonder why thie Ford peoppe do the warm water tank retting，instead of dew retting． The reason is that Henry Ford and his chemists believe the are on the heels of a process of separatiing the fiber from the shives of the flax without retting at all－by a mechani－
cal process．This has already been done，in several ways，by ifferent men，with the use of chemicals，accomplishing the work in a short time．But there is no great economy in the
chemical prodeess，since the discovery of the warm water efting．

There woind；however，be a great didvantage and economy in thie mechanical retting of flax．The great feadess of the
industry say，of course，that it cannot be done；it never has industry say

But fenry Ford is an iconoclast．He is constantly doing he things that cannot be done．He will likely separate the kely find a nitmber of other shott cuts in making lineng
Any why，he believes he can see far ahead enough now to count on making his own linens at half the present eost of seats ete．etc．
hat what．Henry Ford can do with linens，othert can do It means that linens are going to be cheanser than cottons nd they are twice as strong and four to six to ten timies as There are great things ahead of the Salem cistriet，in the ar Inen indastries－
then only a start will be made towards
be dope in these indistrifes in this valley．
The Statesmein told of the growing of 600 acces of flet
in Salem for several weeks during the flax growing season ras with the Ford chemists experimenting with flod，for sil
veelks，on his way from his New York home to Salem．
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sechetary Hobover declined the
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## PROQLEHS

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