## flax spinning in scotland

"A company has been formed in Clasgow to exploit a new
mechanical process for treating flax whereby inen manufac-
turers will obtain more/abundant and cheaper supplies from
bitherto untapped sources.
"By the new process the fiber can be prepared for the
spinner in 13 hours.
"Cheap flax would quickly revive the Scottish linen trade.
Sixty years sago there were in Scotland 100 mills engaged in
flax spinning. Now the number is under 40 ."
The above is from
The new process is probably chemical, or partly chemical
thd partly mechanical. If it were purely mechanical, it would not require even thirteen hours. Henry Ford uses a mechanical process which he has discovered, and which he thinks will be so perfected as to do away entirely with retting and
scutching. Any way, he is already getting coarse fiber that he is usipg in making brake bands for his automobiles. By this process, the flax straw is merely fed into one end of machine and eomes out at the o
arated from the shives or cores.

There have been many chemical processes for separating the fiber from the flax straw by short-cuts, requiring only
13 to 18 hours; buti) so far, every one has eether weakened the
fiber or made it coare and bresh; take the "ife" making it difficalt to spin finely and impossible to be use in the making of fine lingens.

Perhaps the Scottishbsystem is different-
But no one will easily convince any old time spinner o
fiber that fine yarn can be produced excepting from flax fiber that fine yarn can be produced excepting from
And, while a short cut has been found in retting, by the use of warmed water, reducing the time of retting from three the state frax plant here), no one has yet foun mechanically dry, the retted flax straw-
Ampart or lethine
fine flax yarvs.
That is about the last of all the proes
been shortened, in the making of fine linensses tro thich has no flax straw
Some one will no doubt discover it intendent of the state flax plant at the Oregon penitentiary, thinks he has the idea that will work it out. There are many Belfast has been working on it, along with all the other pprob fems concerning the industry, for years and years.
When that short cut is made, the Salem district will be able to turn out flax fiber at a profit, at a price below the

And when the Henry Ford jidea is worked to an entirely
successful conclusion, if it ever is, this district will be able
to put flax fiber on the market at something around half the recent average price of cotton fiber.

Is not that a wonderful outlook?
It would mean the intensive cultivation, to the very last piece the size of a posthole, of all the tillable land in the Willamett
the hills.

## CONSOLIDATIONS IN INDUSTRY

## Industry everywhere is turning toward consolidation and

economy in operation. Standardization, too, follows as an
Uniform quality is the demand most insistent just now. The growth of uniformity as one of the present market
requirements is seen in the various laws recently passed requiring standardization of products and in the planting of
large and selected areas chiefly to one kind of crop, as for exge and selected areas chiefly to one kind of crop, as
examentrating upon certain varieties of fruits, veg tables or grains within given areas.
proved quality rather than quantity is just now the slogen proved quality rather than quantity is just now the slogan of the consumers. A sufficiently large amount of one variety given area makes it possible for growers to pool their crops with the result that they can slip in larger quantities and selection is made with reference to a single variety, cooperative selling of quality-products is one of the first considerations. And further, cooperation itself requires co
of interests, efforts and a collective responsibility.

Examples of consolidation in industry includes, in addistandardization and selling, the cooperative wool growers' pool and many other otganizations with similar purpose' and nethods of standardizing and selling certain products, are products placed on the mithket under the test of uniformure and prompt delivery. Dealers and consumers are thus
 And as cooperation in growing and marketing increases consumer, with the restit that the final cost to the latter may consumer, with the result that the final cost to the latter may
be reduced while to the grower there will remain fair profits.
ENCOURAGING DRAMA
 It is regrettable that a single seat should be vacant at such presentation of drama. It is encouraging to believe
that through such performances by such actors as Mrs. Fisk,
Jefferson and others for the best in dramatic art, will, in the near future, tax the THE GOVERNOR SCORES
capacity of the city's excellent theatres.
 the effort which they have exp
permitted to stifle competition
The principle that any railroad or any other line o
business should be granted permission to stifle competition i wrong. It is un-American. The government has in the
interstate commerce commission the machinery for fair and interstate comme
proper regulation
from ruinous co
from ruinous competition either by new lines or by those railway lines including the
right and privilige to build Bits For Breakfast ${ }^{*} \mid$ SECURITY PACT IS
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## Children $\mathrm{Crf}_{\mathrm{f}}$ for



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