

either a horse or an elephant to do the turning. I do not think that there was any demand, when having been put to the test. It may not be generally known that he was the originator of the idea of the mauling ~~or~~ machine as we now are so much in use every where. He had the machine on the market and one of his sons, ^{Arthur} travelled throughout the country installing such. However, the great thing was the idea of suction. Other folks took up the matter, but whether or not he had patented ~~it~~ ^{the principle} I am not aware, but later on I think it ended in a lawsuit in which he was sued for infringing a patent, & he lost the case, and also a considerable amount ⁱⁿ damages. He also ^{in conjunction with a Mr. Grainger} patented a new sort of sheep shears, had it manufactured by the famous firm of "Ward & Payne" in England, who made an offer for the patent right out. This was not acceptable, as ~~they~~ they wished for a royalty on all sales. That was the end of the matter as the firm in question had their own shears, of world wide fame, & it was not likely that they would push the sale of another article in opposition to their own. About that time, there was a proposal afoot for to grow, "hemp or linsed," ^{flax} a company was being formed & the farmers were requested to grow the flax, and a mill was to be erected some

where, for the manufacture of the hemp. Father put four acres under crop, and I remember doing my share of the pulling of the crop, this is a necessity as by any other method such as cutting, a big proportion of the ~~yield~~ would be left as stubble. However the crops were grown, but the company never came to life fruition, altho. sponsored by the Canterbury Agricultural Society. We had ours in the stack but there was no means either of threshing for seed or making use of the fibre. Mr. Mitchell came to the rescue & having a water driven mill, he agreed to thresh the lot for the fibre, he did make use of a certain amount ~~but~~ but I think the process was too slow, as the flax had to be soaked in water for about ten days, before a fit stage for the retting or separating the fibre from the stalk. By the way now in the year 1940, the Government are asking the farmers to sow 15000 acres, as the Country being at war, and a lot of the countries in Europe, from which supplies could be obtained are cut off & the British Government want N.Z. to supply 5000 tons of fibre for war purposes. Yes Mr. Mitchell dabbled in a good many things, amongst ~~the things~~ ^{he} he planted a big apple orchard of four or five acres. ~~The~~ The trees grew alright but the blight & codlin moth took possession, in later years, remedies were found and the blight trouble was over come, but for him the remedies came too late.