

something more hardy and certain, even though it be not of equal quality, to supply their place. The Council of the Agricultural Association has appointed a Special Committee to examine and report on this interesting and laudable experiment, which it is most devoutly to be hoped will prove successful, and be a benefit to its conductor and the country.

MEETINGS IN THE ELECTORAL DIVISION OF BOTHWELL.

Difficulties having arisen among the members of the Bothwell Electoral Division Society, I was instructed by the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture to visit the Riding, with a view to acquire a more correct knowledge of those difficulties, and, as far as possible, open a way for their adjustment. I accordingly held public meetings at Bothwell, Florence, Thamesville, and Morpeth, and had considerable personal intercourse with farmers and others interested in the promotion of agriculture, and the welfare of the Society. At most of these meetings, questions relating to improved agricultural practice were freely discussed, in addition to the special object for which we had met. I cannot but feel grateful to the officers and members of the Township Societies, as well as those of the county, for their kindness and readiness to impart information, and I trust that the better feeling elicited will tend to strengthen a wider bond of union, and restore harmony, and, as a consequence, increase the usefulness and efficient working of the Society, which, by united exertion, cannot fail to obtain a foremost rank among similar institutions in the Province. I shall feel gratified to learn that my anticipations have been realized.

DRAINING AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

In passing over this fine section of country, I was much impressed with its great agricultural capability. Much of the soil is naturally very rich, as is evinced by the luxuriant character of its forests, and the appearance of the growing crops, where anything beyond the most superficial culture had been given. Through the kindness of Mr. Knags, I was enabled to take a hasty glance of his farm near Dawn Mills. Some of the soil is a deep alluvium, producing very heavy crops of grass, roots, and grain. The pasturage is very rich, and Mr. Knags is forming

the nucleus of a short-horn herd, a young bull and a few heifers indicate good and pure breeding. His sheep, too, as regards size and quality, are much above the average. Leicesters predominate in this section, but for want of attention to the ordinary principles of breeding, and particularly to the importation of pure bred rams, they have very little of the modern Leicester except the name. A few more enterprising farmers, scattered here and there, are beginning to prepare the way in these respects for much desiderated improvements, and their example cannot fail of being highly beneficial around their own centres.

The most needed improvement on the rich and level lands of this portion of the Province is drainage, an artifice which I commenced publicly urging many years ago, but for want of capital, and the power of co-operation more than any other cause, this primary and indispensable means of improvement has but recently been adopted on a broad scale. In a new country, with a level surface like the one in question, the first duty of the settler, after denuding a portion of the forest for securing a habitation and the necessaries of life, is as soon as possible to aid, if I may so term it, *Nature's drainage*. In all situations, however flat they may be, the natural drainage of the country is carried on by means of creeks or streams, which, however sluggish and circuitous, allow the surplus water to find its way into lakes or seas. The improvement then of these natural channels, by clearing out decaying timber and vegetable matter, deepening and straightening where necessary, constitute the primary operation of draining, upon the successful conducting of which, the efficiency of all subsequent and more refined methods, such as ditching and field under-draining, essentially depends. It is no uncommon thing to observe, in a wet and level country, both open ditches and covered drains very much impaired in their functions, and ultimately completely obstructed for want of a sufficient outfall; for apart from this condition, both labour and money will surely be thrown away.

It was, therefore, particularly gratifying to learn that in several townships in this peninsula, the improving of what is termed arterial drainage is being carried on extensively, and with