

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON FARMERS' CLUB.

The monthly meeting of this Association was held at Guelph, April 8th, T. Saunders, Esq., in the chair. The attendance was not so large as on previous occasions, but every attention was paid whilst Mr. Wright delivered the following address, on "*What description of Neat Cattle may be most advantageously raised in this County?*" He commenced by saying,—

MR. PRESIDENT:—We have to confess that we enter upon the duty that devolves upon us with a degree of reluctance, arising from the fact that we do it under the most unfavorable circumstances,—not occupying what can be called, with any degree of propriety, land adapted to the raising of stock,—having no low meadows, and neither running streams nor living springs of water, to which it is universally considered essentially necessary, and almost indispensable, that cattle should have free access at all times. We are ready to admit that, during the winter, we don't feel the disadvantage or inconvenience arising from such deprivation to be very great, having an excellent pump in the barn-yard as a substitute. This enables us to have our cattle confined; and we are disposed to think that, to a certain extent, it gives us an advantage over many, especially at this season of the year, as our cattle have no opportunity afforded them to ramble (like many others) over the pastures while the snow is disappearing, and so to injure them very considerably by trampling, which we consider ought to be avoided, and therefore ought to be condemned, as no advantage can accrue from the practice. Having thus shown how we are circumstanced, we believe if the raising of stock is a subject which at all times claims the attention of the farmer, it must at the present time be one which demands his most serious consideration; and the subject named for this evening we consider one of immense importance, viz., "*What description of Neat Cattle may be most advantageously raised in this County?*" In attempting to bring the subject before you, it is not our intention to enter into the relative merits of the various breeds of cattle. We find each has its advocates even in Britain, where almost numberless experiments have been made, with the most careful attention, and with means the most ample, and where breeders must have had every opportunity of testing their merits, and thereby ascertaining their capabilities. It is evident that, even under these favorable circumstances, they could not attain sufficient knowledge to enable them to give a unanimous decision as to which is best; for each party has still its favorite breed, and which it is strenuously contended is best adapted to accomplish the desired object. Under such circumstances, to decide which is best must be a question fraught with difficulties in its solution. As in Britain, so in Canada, each of the improved breeds has its advocates, and the native cattle have theirs also. It has frequently been asserted that they are harder than the improved breeds, and some have gone so far as to say "that the Canadian cows are infinitely superior to any of those fancy breeds—that they produce more milk on plain

feeding, stand starvation much longer, and are better suited to the climate." Now, while we are ready to accord to them many excellent qualities, we scarcely believe all that has been said. That they are hardy, and capable of enduring great fatigue, we admit; many of the oxen are well adapted for the yoke, being active, and good workers, and many of the cows are excellent for milk; but that they possess superior qualities over and above the improved breeds, we are not prepared to admit; and as to their being better adapted to the climate, we are sure that such an opinion is incorrect. Much has been said about the severity of our winters; but we are compelled to conclude that they have no injurious effect on the health of neat cattle provided with sufficient shelter and food, but rather the contrary, and that they are conducive to it. We draw these conclusions as the result of observation during a residence of twenty years in Canada; and we are abundantly satisfied that neat stock is not subject to the same amount of disease as in England, and we know of nothing to which it can be attributed but the climate; and as profit is the object of every farmer, we should naturally suppose he would give such careful attention in the feeding and general treatment of his stock as would be most likely to accomplish his purpose; and no one of sane mind, we should think, would attempt the experiment of starvation as the best means to acquire a profitable return on his capital and labor. The description of neat cattle most advantageously raised by the farmer, we apprehend to be such as are best adapted for the following purposes,—the dairy, the yoke, and the shambles. You are all fully aware that we are not possessed of any herds of thorough-bred cattle, and that the improvement of our stock has been effected by putting the native cows to Durham bulls; and by selecting the best heifers, and invariably putting them to thorough-bred male animals of the Durham breed, we have succeeded to a certain extent; and we find our cows as good milkers as ever we found the natives. We have not found any trouble in wintering them—they require no pampering—and we believe them to pay better for the food they consume than any native cattle we ever possessed, and that they are equally if not more hardy than the natives. The oxen raised from the improved cows we find to be well adapted for the yoke, being active, powerful animals, and excellent workers, well suited to every purpose for which they are required, easily fed to a great weight, and at all times saleable at remunerating prices. When reared for the shambles, they very far excel the natives—their great tendency to take on flesh, their aptness to fatten, enables the owners to effect sales at almost any age. This must be a considerable advantage, and ought to be fully appreciated. We know of no description of neat cattle (except thorough-breds) better suited for this country, the greater part of which, having a rich and productive soil, well adapted for raising succulent roots, such as mangel wurtzel, Swedish turnips, &c., and most parts of it for excellent pasture, and being well watered, it is every way well calculated for rearing and feeding a large breed of cattle to advantage.