

there had been little improvement. The cross he had had between a pure Leicester ram and a Canadian ewe had come up in quality to what he expected, and he had begun to believe that the half-bred sheep was not what it was said to be. The progeny of the Leicester ram he thought inferior to the rest of his stock.

MR. WILLIAM WELLS fed his sheep on hay through the winter. About the time the ground began to get black he gave them a few peas, as that was the time sheep generally fell off, if they did not get something to keep them up. He had only got about twenty sheep, and gave them about three bushels of peas through the month. He let them run through the year with the rest of his stock, and he considered, that running in that way, they paid as well as the latter, and thought he could keep eight sheep for one cow, taking all seasons into account.

MR. DICKIE believed that Sheep paid better than Cows, and that six of the former, could be kept for one of the latter.

This closed the discussion, which throughout was well kept up and exceedingly interesting. The next discussion will be held on the last Friday in March, at 1 o'clock. Subject—"The best kind of Roots, and the best modes of cultivation." Mr. James Dickie to open the discussion.

#### EAST ZORRA FARMERS' CLUB.

Subject.—FENCING.

A meeting of the East Zorra Farmers' Club was held at Lappin's Hotel, 12th line, on Thursday, the 9th of Feb. Mr. Turner in the chair, the Secretary being absent, his place was filled by Mr. Crope.

The Chairman having opened the meeting, MR. COOKE read as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.—Fencing is proposed for this evening's consideration, and I suppose it will be expected I should mark out a line different from our old established zigzag rail fence, but sir, my opinion is, that we as farmers in this township generally, have plenty of rail timber, or can buy it at a reasonable price, I think Sir, that we cannot in the majority of instances turn our attention to any mode of fencing more to our advantage; I know, Sir, that it is called by some men unsightly, but I have always thought that a farm well fenced in convenient fields did not look unsightly, I have heard Englishmen say the same. I would say that every man ought to fix up a straight fence in front of his dwelling, of posts and boards or pickets, and in particular his barn yard should have a good tight board fence around it to keep the wind from blowing the fodder out of the yard or in one corner, so that the master beast gets all the supper and leaves the rest to starve. I think, Sir, if we cultivate our farms well and put up good substantial homes for ourselves and our cattle, we for our own part need not take much thought for the more expensive sort of fence; we have borne the burden and heat

of the day in clearing our land, and I should like to take as much as possible from it, with a small outlay, with an eye always to a right system of cultivation, and leave the next generation to construct any fence that best suits their taste or convenience. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to leave the subject to some one better able to do justice to it.

MR. JOHN SMITH. In taking a view of farms as they are at present, I think it is a duty to give this thing a serious consideration. When I came to this country I brought a few seeds in my pocket, intending to plant them here. I have planted an English thorn in this country and it is doing well. If I had a family here I would plant the inside of my farm with thorn fences, they will be expensive at the commencement, but after being brought to a proper size will be the best fences, because they will stand from generation to generation. We are well aware that our wooden and rail fences will soon be at an end, and I think we ought to consider about our future ones, with respect to thorn fences in particular, for I feel it my duty to make my fences permanent.

MR. KIRK said, I do not understand the plan of raising thorns in this country, but in the old country we used to plant them in hedges as soon as they were three years old, along ditches, two feet and a half wide, and I would approve of the same plan in this country.

MR. DALE. Well, gentlemen, I am very happy to see such a large company assembled for the purpose of improving fences. I approve of the plan of thorn fences and would be very happy to see them, along with every other improvement. When I was in the old country, I rented a farm of a gentleman, that was divided into fourteen large fields. My landlord told me to do as I wished with the farm, to the best advantage. I divided these into smaller portions with good thorn fences, when the quick began to grow it made a permanent fence in five years, needing no more expense. I hope there will have as good fences in Canada as there were when I was in Yorkshire. There is another thing I have to allude to; when I was in my boyhood my father planted some quicks, and before I left him he had excellent fences.

MR. GRAFTON SMITH. I am very well satisfied with the former remarks concerning English thorn fences. There is another advantage in having them, that is there is a ditch required, which is not only of use to the fence, but also in draining the land. As for my part I shall try the benefits of a thorn hedge round my garden before a great space of time has expired.

MR. DONALDSON. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, he only remark I have to make is this. I perfectly agree with Mr. Smith respecting thorn fences, but at present I think we are a century or two too early. In the younger part of my life I was employed to protect thorn fences. Planting however, a thorn fence ten inches apart, it would take a person all his lifetime to raise what would plant or fence five acres, and providing they did equally as well as in England, it would take ten years before they raise enough to finish a fence. In the first place, it would take five years for the