was listened to in an address of one and one-half hours with marked attention. Prof. Robertson is certainly a great speaker, and is nothing if not practical. It is a question if there is an equal of Prof. Robertson as a platform speaker on matters agricultural in the wide world, certainly not in Canada or the United States. Those of us who have heard the leading speakers of Canada and the States will bear this statement out.

Previous to the meeting the writer heard some friends remarking to this effect: "If Prof. Robertson would give us $200 each at the close of his lecture we might be able to profit by what he'll tell us." At the close of the meeting it was curious to note these same parties acknowledging their mistake, and affirming that no man wanted a single dollar more than the average farmer possesses to carry out in every detail the teaching of Prof. Robertson in his lecture of one and one-half hours. This shows how intensely practical the Professor is, and what great results are possible to be obtained from the teaching of such a man.

Prof. Robertson first spoke of the soil, what it was and how agriculture might be taught in the public schools as it is at present taught in 1,600 schools in the Empire State. He very plainly showed the fundamental principles of plant growth, the value of the clover plant, selection of seed, aided by glasses containing samples of selected and non-selected seeds.

One portion of his lecture was then given to swine raising, and another to chicken fattening. He promised that the chicken-fattening station would be in operation in the province, with cold storage, by August next. He also said that a number of illustration stations would be located in the province next June—three at least, located by the roadsides, where all could see at a glance the xperiments being carried on and the results thereof.

There is no doubt these illustration stations can be made to work great object lessons to the farmers far away and ahead of single experiment stations. In France alone there are 4,0000f these stationsscattered throughout the country

Mr. Dillon was the next speaker. He took the cow for his theme, saying that in order to fatten pigs or chickens you must have milk. He startled the audience by telling them of the large amount of British gold brought to our shores last year for cheese and butter. He counselled all dairymen to sow plenty of peas, oats and vetches this spring for cow feed, and be thus prepared for a possible drouth. Mr. Dillon always obtains an attentive audience, and retains the full confidence of the farmers and dairymen of Prince Edward Island.

Premier Farquharson delivered the closing address in a running speech, and promised better things for the farmers of the province. By co-operating with Hon. Sydney Fisher, Premier Farquharson has several helps under consideration for the benefit of the farmer. A vital problem the popular Premier is to grapple is that of keeping the sons and daughters on the farms.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the professor in a nice speech by John McLean, ex-M.P., and seconded by Hon. Thomas Kirkham, of Souris West. The meeting broke up at eleven o'clock, the speakers leaving immediately by special train for Charlottetown, where a meeting of the Dairymen's Associations of the Province took place the following day. Special low rates and a number of special trains were arranged for this meeting. The meeting took place on March 3rd, and was the largest dairy meeting ever held in the province.

One of the Best in America

Singhampton, Ont., March 9th, 1899.

To the Editor of FARMING:

Please send me your paper, FARMING, for the present year, for which find enclosed $1. I would say that it is one of the best farm papers published in America.

Yours truly,
ROBERT EMERSON.

Further Efforts to Improve the Seed Grain of Canada

During the past ten years continuous effort has been made by Professor Saunders, Director of the Experimental Farms, to improve the quality and increase the productiveness of the seed grain used by the farmers of this country. During that time about 120,000 packages of three pounds each have been sent out to over 100,000 farmers, who have greatly benefited thereby. This work is being continued this year, and these samples are in great demand.

This season, under instructions of the Minister of Agriculture, a new feature has been added to this work. A select number of farmers have been chosen from each county or constituency in Canada, selected mainly from among those who have shown by the returns they have made regarding samples received in the past a special interest in this subject. Nearly 5,000 of these farmers have been invited to join in this special test which will be made in each instance on plots of one tenth acres each. The quantities of grain to be supplied, which is being mailed free from the Experimental Farm, are as follows: Oats, 8 lbs.; spring wheat, 10 lbs.; barley, 10 lbs.

Fourteen varieties which have been thoroughly tested at all the experimental farms, and have proven to be among the best sorts grown, have been chosen for these trial plots. Six of these are oats, viz.: Abundance, Banner, Improved Ligowo, American Beauty, Bavarian and Golden Giant; four spring wheats, Preston, Stanley, Percy and Advance; two two-rowed barleys: Beaver, and Sidney; and two six-rowed barleys: Royal and Trooper.

Every farmer entering on this test has had his own choice of variety, but can only receive one sample. At the close of the season the results obtained in each county will be published so that this test will, to some extent, be a competitive one, and will show the value and usefulness of these several sorts of grain in the various provinces of the Dominion.

The following particulars are given by Dr. Saunders in reference to the introduction of the varieties chosen for this special test and the record they have made as to crops during the past four years:

The ABUNDANCE oat was imported from France by the Experimental Farm in 1891, and has been grown each year since with very satisfactory results. It is a white oat with a branching head and a fairly stiff straw, a vigorous grower, and very productive. In the uniform test plots at the Central Experimental Farm it has given an average yield during the past four years of 66 bushels 37 pounds per acre. The Abundance oat has been similarly tested at all the experimental farms throughout the Dominion,and has given, as the result of four years' trial, an average crop of 65 bushels 9 pounds per acre. The largest crop yet given by this variety at any of the experimental farms was had at Indian Head, N.W.T., in 1895, when it produced 108 bushels 28 pounds per acre.

The BANNER oat was first grown at the experimental farms in 1890, and has been sown each year since and has given heavy crops. From the outset it has shown great vigor and has been very productive. It is a white oat with a branching head and a stiff straw. In the uniform test plots at the Central Experimental Farm it has given an average yield during the past four years of 70 bushels 21 pounds per acre. The Banner oat has been similarly tested at all the experimental farms throughout the Dominion, and has given, as the result of four years' trial, an average crop of 71 bushels 17 pounds per acre, which is the largest yield given by any variety. The heaviest crop yet obtained from this oat at any of the experimental farms was at Brandon, Man., in 1898, when it gave 106 bushels 6 pounds per acre. In 1895 at Indian Head, N.W.T., an 18 acre field of this oat gave an average of 106 bushels per acre.

The IMPROVED LIGOWO oat was imported from France by the Experimental Farm in 1891, and has been grown each year since with very good results. It is a white oat, large and plump, with a branching head and stiff straw, a