

THE FARMERS.

Meeting of the Institute of East Hastings at Shannonville.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BELLEVILLE, Feb. 7.—The meeting of the East Hastings Farmers' Institute at Shannonville was very largely attended by the farming community. Mr. J. C. Hanley, president, acted as chairman, and referred to the great advantage the institutes were to farmers, and the wonderful amount of good they had accomplished in Hastings. Prof. Saunders, of Ottawa Experimental Farm, gave a very practical address. The same crop planted for a number of successive years would exhaust the soil, as one crop would take one proportion of matter from the soil, while another crop absorbs entirely different matter. The advantage of rotation crops was obvious. The land should have plenty of moisture, and get good drainage. Plant crops as early as possible, the speaker advised. The earliest crop sown would invariably give the best result. Land should be worked up with the plough in the fall, so that the frost can work on it. An endeavour should always be made to put back in the soil what had been taken out. He would feed coarse grain, etc., to the stock, and sell cheese, butter, and beef. Good seed should always be used. In 1890 Canadian oats averaged 34 lbs. to the bushel, while English oats averaged 38 or 39. By using good seed there was no reason why Canada should not reach this standard, thereby increasing the price about five cents a bushel. Ladoga wheat was best adapted for northern countries. He advised the use of the white chaff wheat for this section. As to two-rowed barley, it was an indisputable fact that it brought from 10 to 12 cents more per bushel, besides producing more to the acre. Swedish barley was best for Canada. Corn, when cut at the tasseling stage, yields 4,220 pounds of digestible matter to the acre; at the silky stage the yield is 5,069 pounds; at the early milk, 5,833 pounds; at the late milk, 6,012 pounds; and at the glazing period, 7,308 pounds.

Prof. Robertson strongly advised farmers to pay more attention to butter, beef, and swine in preference to grain, as in selling a ton of butter nothing is actually sold off the farm which takes anything from the strength and richness of the soil. Manured lands made corn ripen from 7 to 10 days earlier than land which is less rich. In planting corn $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart the best results were attained. The grain should be buried $2\frac{3}{4}$ or 3 inches deep. Peas should be also planted deep. Grain should not be mixed with corn when put in the silo, but when feeding. Cattle would not thrive on more than six or seven pounds of grain. Juicy fodder should be fed, as it would always make a cow give more milk than dry fodder. There was no money in feeding a pig after it had attained a weight of 200 pounds, as it then began to eat up the profit.