

air the year round? (*Of course they do. A. R. J. F.*) And does he wish to recommend that the custom be followed in this country by those that he sells to? Does Mr. Wood follow that custom himself, and were the sheep that he has shown at the New-York State Fair raised in that manner? These are questions that interest all breeders of English Sheep, as it is generally believed that in a country where, as Mr. Wood says of England, it rains two days out of three, (*Bosh! A. R. J. F.*) sheep should have some shelter from the rain storms. In this country they should be kept dry, he tells us in his lecture.

C. D. SMEAD.

—Schuyler County, N. Y., March 7.

#### Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada

The work to be undertaken at the different stations is thus set forth in the Act:—

(a.) Conduct researches and verify experiments designed to test the relative value for all purposes of different breeds of stock, and their adaptability to the varying climatic or other conditions which prevail in the several provinces and in the North West Territories;

(b.) Examine into the economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese;

(c.) Test the merits, hardiness and adaptability of new or untried varieties of wheat or other cereals, and of field

crops, grasses and forage plants, fruits, vegetables, plants and trees, and disseminate among persons engaged in farming, gardening or fruit growing, upon such conditions as are prescribed by the Minister, samples of the surplus of such products as are considered to be specially worthy of introduction;

(d.) Analyse fertilizers, whether natural or artificial, and conduct experiments with such fertilizers, in order to test their comparative value as applied to crops of different kinds; (1)

(e.) Examine into the composition and digestibility of foods for domestic animals;

(f.) Conduct experiments in the planting of trees for timber and for shelter;

(g.) Examine into the diseases to which cultivated plants and trees are subject, and also into the ravages of destructive insects, and ascertain and test the most useful preventives and remedies to be used in each case;

(h.) Investigate the diseases to which domestic animals are subject;

(i.) Ascertain the vitality and purity of agricultural seeds, and

(j.) Conduct any other experiments and researches bearing upon the agricultural industry of Canada, which are approved by the Minister."

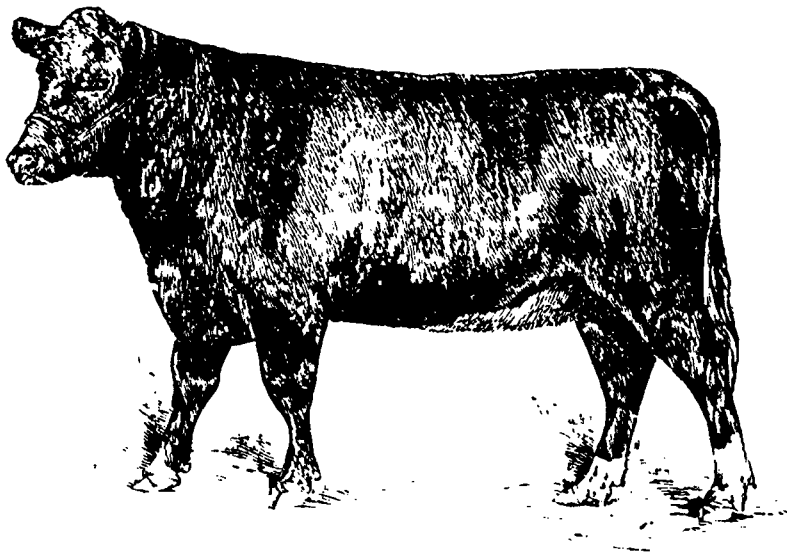
(1) Shouldn't I like to have a share in the work! A. R. J. F.

#### WORK ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED.

The Central Experimental Farm has been located near the Capital, within three miles of the Parliament Buildings. Four hundred and sixty acres of land have been secured in a commanding position overlooking the city of Ottawa, possessing every desirable variety of soil and aspect to meet the varied requirements of the experimental work to be conducted there. Although possession was had but a few days before the winter set in, some work has been accomplished, unnecessary internal fences have been removed, the loose stones cleared over a large area, some grading done and about twenty acres of land ploughed. During the winter a large supply of stable manure has been obtained, between fifty and sixty acres of undergrowth chopped and piled, an office and store room erected, and a glass structure built for the purpose of testing the vitality and germinating power of seeds.

Correspondence has been had with the Directors of the Royal Gardens at Kew, England, the Imperial Botanic Garden at St. Petersburg, Russia, and the Imperial College of Agriculture at Japan, and as a result collections of grain and seeds will shortly be received from these several institutions.

Purchases of seed grain in great variety, including wheat, barley, oats and rye, also grass seeds for meadows and permanent pastures have been made in Northern Russia, Germany, England, Canada and the United States with the view of testing their comparative merits when grown side by side. A collection of many varieties of



POLLED ANGUS.

potatoes has also been secured for a similar purpose. A large number of standard fruit trees and vines are being obtained; also a collection of hardy Russian sorts, comprising nearly two hundred varieties, some of which it is hoped will succeed in the colder sections of the Dominion, where the more tender kinds cannot be successfully grown. A very extensive assortment of economic and other forest trees and shrubs, both native and foreign, are being secured; also collections of seeds of the same, for the further extension of this important division of the work. Plans of the necessary buildings are also being prepared, so that no delay may occur when the time arrives for their erection.

#### SEED TESTING.

This department is now ready for work. It has been undertaken for the purpose of determining the value of the agricultural seeds which are sold to farmers from year to year, and to save them from some of the losses to which they are annually subject by using old and inferior seeds. Every farmer in Canada will have the privilege and the right to send to the Experimental Farm samples of any seeds of which he may desire to know the germinating power, and it is hoped that all will avail themselves freely of the advantage offered. A suitable glass structure has been erected for this work of a