

ment?" That means (judging from the silence of these men as members, in past years in the House) that now, as Ministers, they will not dare advance any legislation which has not first received the approval of the Premier. Have we not had enough of a "one man Government?" What is the position of the Hon. W. R. Ross, Minister of Lands, in this "business Government?" His being allowed to retain his portfolio is a declaration by the Premier that his administration of the Department, under the guiding hand of the Attorney-General, had given satisfaction to the Premier. Mr. Ross, at all times boldly defended the McBride-Bowser policy of the Land Department. In his zeal to brand as untrue the statements made by the Liberals that the arable land along the railways had been given to land grabbers, he stated on the floor of the House, February 1915, that of the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million acres in the 6 mile belt along the 1200 miles of railway, only 847,785 acres had been sold to speculators. Is it not reasonable to suppose that these locations, these 847,000 acres (being over 18 per cent. of the total) would be the choicest along this railway belt? I submit, and I think you will agree with me, that of the whole  $4\frac{1}{2}$  million acres, not over 12 to 18 per cent. is possible farm land, the balance being absolutely unfit for agriculture. We have the fact then, that the charges made are well founded and that there are no arable lands left in this 6 mile belt adjacent to the railways. Mr. Ross is not satisfied with the bald statement that this area comprises over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  million acres more than the amount sold, he not only tries to leave the impression that this vast area is vacant land (except as to a few pre-emptions), but that it is open for and capable of settlement. The Hon. Gentleman does not stop here. On November 10th last, in speaking at Oak Bay, he made some most astounding statements. He knows, or ought to know as head of his Department, that there is not in the whole of British Columbia over 30 million acres of good arable land.

The Dominion Year Book for 1915-16, at page 164, gives the total area of each of the Provinces. It gives the total area of the possible farm lands in each Province as follows: