

of roots, without liberal manuring, would find the land too poor for it. A second crop of clover, unless a dressing of land-plaster is given, to set free potash in the soil, is rarely a success, because the first crop has too greatly reduced the available potash in the soil. So far then from always reducing fertility, the cereal class may be used to increase it, and are a necessity in every rotation. Continuous growth of roots and clover would as surely ruin a farm as continuous growth of grain. A grain crop, because it is a light feeder on potash and phosphoric acid, which, as we have said in previous articles, is always being set free in the soil, allows these elements to accumulate for the use of the peas or clover which follows it, and in this way prepares the soil for them.

The main points to remember in connection with the cereal class are these: (1) That their continuous growth robs the surface layers of soil, reduces humus, and lessens the supply of available nitrogen; (2) that for successful growth they must have abundance of available nitrogen; (3) that so far from being an evil in the rotation, they are a benefit, in preparing the land for the legumes, peas and clover. These crops are not harmful to the land. The harm lies in the fact that the land is often continuously cropped with them. Used properly in a rotation, they not only supply a very valuable crop, but contribute to fertility by preparing the land for other crops.

Once More the Hired Man.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have read with interest the letters written by "Alick" and "Sandy," the latter to whom might well be applied the quotation in this week's columns, viz.: "It is with narrow-souled people as with narrow-necked bottles, the less they have in them, the more noise they make pouring it out." I should like to put "Sandy" one or two questions: 1st,—Has he ever hired a first-class Englishman, who has required a horse and buggy kept for him? 2nd,—Has he ever paid a man \$240 per year, with board and washing? As from the letter, I should take him to be one of the class of Canadian farmers who is often to be found, that hires a man at about \$14 a month, and expects him to know the way to do everything as well as the man next door that is getting \$20 or \$22 per month. I have only had 15 months' Canadian experience, but have already come across this type. I agree entirely with "Alick," and I believe most of the best class of farmers do also, that the best way to treat the objectionable (though necessary) hired man, is to get him by right treatment to take an interest in his work, and not as a mere machine for getting rid of his supply of rusty bacon and doing his rough work for him. I am, of course, taking it for granted that "Sandy" is alluding to Englishmen in his letter, and I can assure him that when I came to this country first the farmer I hired with informed me that he preferred Englishmen to Canadians, as they could be trusted not to skulk directly he left them to themselves.

AN ENGLISHMAN.

A Ditching Machine.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have read with interest the different articles on drainage, but is it not time we had got at something with which we can make better use of our time in opening ditches than with the spade and shovel? Are there not some of your readers who have had experience with Sawyer & Massey's road-graders for ditching? In parts of Huron County, I understand they have had good success with them, and that three or four teams and three men will open out about two hundred rods of ditch in ten hours. This, of course, applies only to fields already cleared and free from stumps and stones, where fences can be opened, so as to save turning too much with the grader. I should like to hear from farmers who have had experience with graders for this purpose.

S. Wellington Co.

Agriculturists for South Africa.

The Government of Orange River Colony has secured the services of two Canadians, Mr. E. J. McMillan and Stewart Galbraith, to look after the experimental work with field crops in that colony. Both are graduates of the O. A. C. Mr. McMillan has been for several years Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of Prince Edward Island. He will now have charge of the Experimental Farm of the Orange River Colony. Mr. Galbraith graduated at the O. A. C. this year. He will superintend the Orange River field plot experiments. Both men are well qualified for the positions in South Africa. They have gone to St. Louis to attend the exhibition as the representatives of the Orange River Colony, with a view to gathering new ideas that may be of advantage to them in organizing the work that has been placed in their hands. They will sail from New York early in July.

Mr. W. J. Palmer, B.S.A., late of Toronto, now Director of Agriculture for the Orange River Colony, South Africa, has by Imperial order been appointed a member of the joint Legislative Council of the Orange River and Transvaal Colonies.

Buying or Renting a Farm.

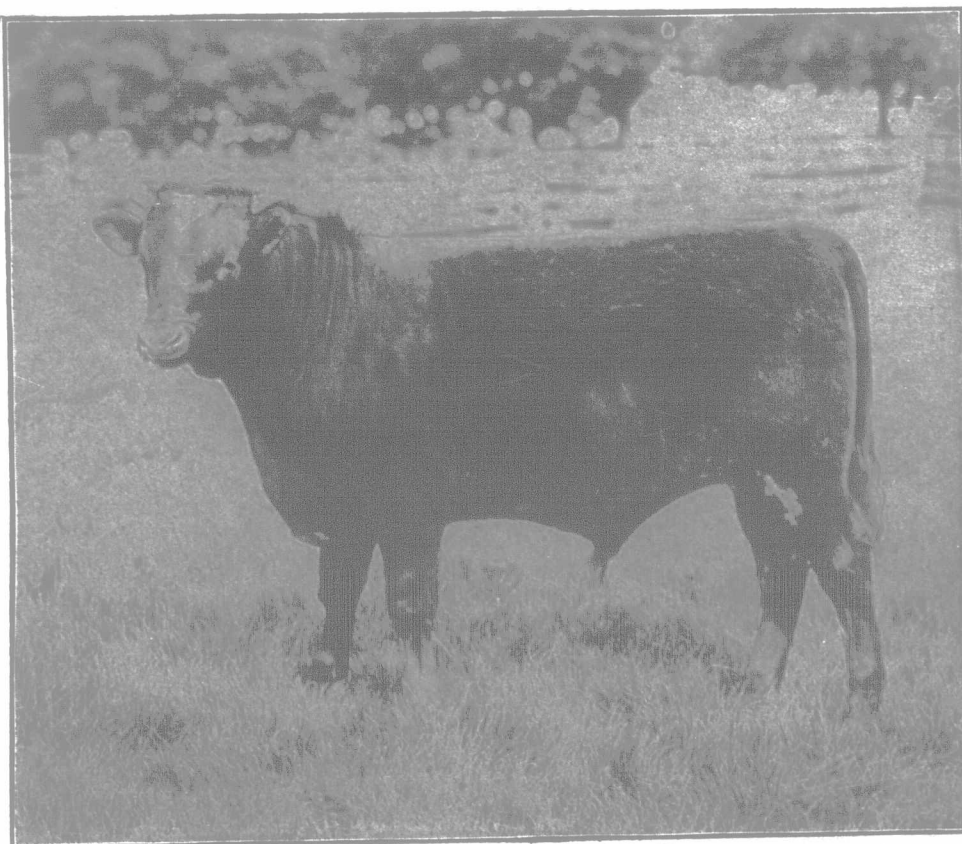
A correspondent asks the question: Which is more profitable, to buy or to rent a farm? In nothing, perhaps, is there greater difference between the practices which prevail in the Old Country and those which obtain here than in the matter of farmers owning or renting the farms on which they make their living. Over the water, the great majority of farmers are but tenants, the land being owned by comparatively few people, who are mostly rich and not under the necessity of working for a living. The farmers, in spite of the loud grumbling of the past few years, are many of them well-to-do also, but no matter what they may be prepared to pay for land, and the land hunger is very keen, it is next to impossible to buy any land in the Old Country. In this country conditions are about exactly the reverse. Some farms are rented certainly, but they are the exception. By far the greater proportion of farms are owned, at least nominally, by those who live on them and work them, and a reference to newspaper advertisements will show that there are many more chances of buying a farm than of renting one. There are some renters, however, and their number is on the increase, we think, and likely in the future to increase still more. Years ago, when raising grain to sell was the rule, there were good reasons why a farm owner should object to renting his place. The depreciation in value which might be expected through soil impoverishment would sometimes

will find out by a term on a rented farm how he is likely to do in business for himself, how he might expect to get along if he bought a farm of his own. Instances are not wanting of men who after renting a farm for a few years have afterwards bought it, and later have added farm to farm.

On the other side, it may be said that a tenant lacks incentive to improve a place he does not own. Tree-planting, building, even draining, soil enrichment, and such like, except as they give immediate returns, are not for him. He has no settled abiding place. He may have to move when it is not convenient, and every move involves loss—"three are as bad as a fire." He has not the subtle but solid delight which comes from ownership of even a small part of the earth's surface.

In favor of buying a place in preference to renting, besides what has been incidentally hinted at, it may be mentioned that an owner naturally looks more to the future. He is on the watch against little leaks or breaks which mean loss in time to come, but which may easily be prevented or mended. He sees also little things that may be attended to, which by and by bring increased returns. Buildings are kept up, fences are repaired or replaced, draining done, trees planted, new methods adopted, etc., etc. Thus, there is constant improvement and, consequently, greater profits and growing value. Again, a tenant, especially if he does not aspire to be anything

else, is apt to be content with a hand-to-mouth existence; while one who has bought a farm is not likely to rest content until it is at least all paid for, thus being led to make better provision for his family or for old age. We remember an old man—a carpenter by trade—saying that if he had stuck to his trade all his life he would have had nothing over in the end, but having, with very little capital, bought a farm, which he managed to pay for, and which greatly increased in value, in his old age he was comfortably well off. There is nothing safer in which to invest labor and savings than in farm property. Further, there is the delightful home feeling, the attachment to a place, not only where you have lived, but which has long been your own, for the improvement of which you have labored, and whose every hill and hollow you know.



Archer's Last.

Shorthorn bull calf, eight months old.—Bred by John Dryden & Son, Brooklin, Ont., and sold to A. D. Patterson, Ladner, B. C.

amount to as much as the rent received. The rather common practice of a renter was to skin the farm, to sell from it as much grain, hay, and even straw, as possible. Since the change to stock-raising and dairying has come, conditions have improved, at least from the owner's standpoint, for he may have his farm returned to him as fertile as before; while a tenant, if his term is not too short, can also do better by keeping stock than by grain-selling. Where practicable, the Old Country system of long leases and binding conditions would be an advantage all round.

The question which comes up to a young farmer just starting for himself is whether it is best for him to rent or buy. Opinions differ. Some say, unhesitatingly, buy—buy, if it is only a few acres; while others are just as positive that it pays better to rent. More depends on the man himself, probably, than on any other factor, but as to which course is wisest would depend a good deal on the amount of his capital and what help he has in his family. The following reasons can be urged in favor of renting: First.—Less capital is required to start farming as a renter than as an owner. In buying a farm a certain amount, say, at least, twenty-five per cent., has to be paid down before a mortgage will be accepted for the balance. A tenant needs but his stock and implements. Second.—As a rule, we think the rental of a farm is less than the interest of purchase money, which gives so much of a better chance to clear money. Third.—If for any reason a farmer does not much more than make ends meet, he is, if a renter, free from the awful load which a heavy unpaid mortgage becomes, and by which many a man has become utterly discouraged and unfitted to do his best. Fourth.—A man

which has long been your own, for the improvement of which you have labored, and whose every hill and hollow you know.

Road Improvement.

The meeting of the National and International Good-roads Association, recently held in St. Louis, was the largest ever held in America in the interests of road improvement. The information collected, the advice given, and the work done at the conference, will have a decidedly stimulating effect upon the agitation which has been going on in America for the last few years, and the reports of this meeting will undoubtedly create a new interest and spread information on the question of roadmaking and road administration that will have a good effect upon those charged with the important work of bettering our roads.

That the question of the improvement of our ordinary roads is attracting genuine interest, can no more be doubted, and that the subject is receiving much more careful thought and study than in the past cannot be questioned. It is an unfortunate thing that in past years the question of rural roadmaking was looked upon as being of very commonplace importance in many sections, consequently drifted into careless and indifferent work.

The good-roads agitation, however, is rectifying this to a large extent, and people are now devoting more time to the preparation of proper plans and specifications for such work, and are employing more competent persons to direct the operation and placing in the hands of the people suitable material and proper implements with which to do the work efficiently and economically.

About 300 delegates were present, and the meetings continued throughout the week. Nearly every phase of