

Germany combined. This hardly looks like decadence, at least financially. Of this total nearly £60,000,000 was for the overseas dominions.

#### IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT ON TARIFF

In view of the memorial presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by your Western farmers' delegation on the tariff issue, a speech by the Prime Minister in the British House of Commons on colonial preference is of considerable interest. He states the position of the Imperial government very clearly in this manner: "There is one limitation to all colonial preference as given to this country. They are not going to allow your manufacturers to become effective competitors to theirs. Anything up to this they are perfectly prepared to concede.

"I make no complaint of that. On the contrary I should like to see an inter-Imperial Free Trade. But it is not possible so long as colonial opinion leads them to the practice of protection of native industries.

"To us here cheap food and cheap raw material are an absolute essential to our industrial welfare, and we cannot consent either upon food or upon raw material to impose taxes which would enhance their costs, and handicap us in the great industrial competition of the world.

"We allow our colonies complete fiscal autonomy. The result has been undoubtedly to some extent a handicap upon our trade, and upon

passed the Commons giving relief in this direction.

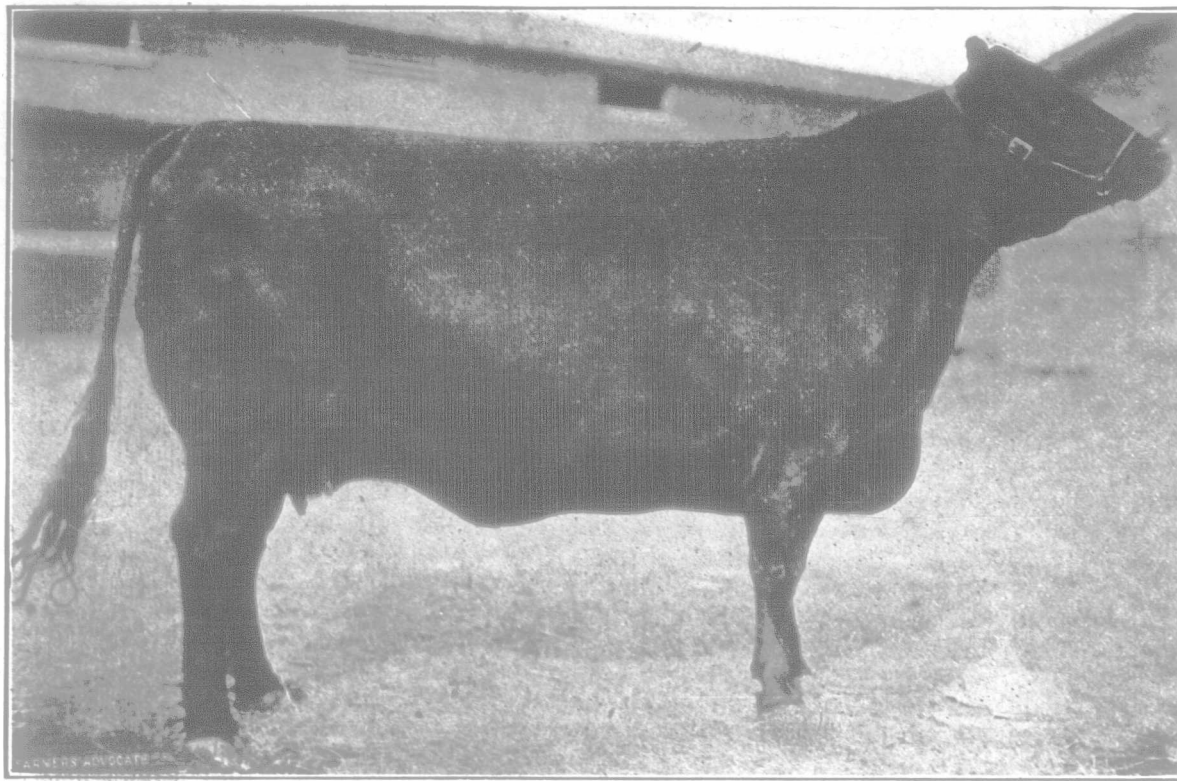
F. DEWHIRST.

## FARM

### Topics for Discussion

In recognition of the fact that valuable hints always are obtained from men engaged in actual farm work THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has adopted the "Topics for Discussion" column in order that our readers may see an open channel through which they may inform their brother farmers as to practices that are worth adopting and warn them against methods that prove unprofitable. Not only do we wish our readers to discuss the topics announced for the various issues, but also we desire that they suggest practical subjects on which it would be well to have discussion.

This notice appears under the "Farm" department, but the questions dealt with cover all branches of the farming industry. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should reach this office 10 days previously to the date of issue. They are read carefully and a first prize of \$3.00 and a second prize of \$2.00 awarded each week. Other letters used will be paid for at regular rates to contributors.



AN IDEAL TYPE OF ABERDEEN ANGUS FEMALE

This cow, Violet 3rd of Conrosh, was champion female at Winnipeg, Brandon and Regina. She also has won highest honors in the old land and was brought to Canada this year by J. D. McGregor.

the expansion of our own markets. That is the price we are most glad to pay for a free Empire, for an Empire which does not rest on the subordination of one part to another, but upon the free consent and the fullest local development of the whole. Complete freedom in these matters is the best security of unity."

#### WORK OF LAND ASSOCIATION

The Central Land Association has grown considerably in the last year, and has now 1,011 members. In the House of Commons there are 103 members of the association. One of the principal objects of the association is that agriculture shall receive fair consideration in parliament.

The president, Walter Long, M. P., at the annual meeting said that the finance act of last year had brought about a new state of affairs. Estates hitherto held by one owner, and conducted by one individual on a definite set of principles, would in future be held by a large number of people, and the central management of these tracts of land would be on a different line—a revolution in a small way of land tenure. Many estates have recently been sold under the new conditions.

The association has done excellent work in advocating compensation to farmers displaced by the demand for small holdings, and a bill has

August 17.—The raising of fall colts is sometimes recommended in this country. It is said that mares are worked little during the winter months and could better raise a colt than in summer, also that fall colts could be raised with no more trouble than spring colts. What do you think of it? Have you ever tried raising fall colts? Would you consider it advisable in this country to have colts come between October 1 and December 1 and wean some time in March?

August 24.—Discuss the practice of stacking grain in the Canadian West. What are the chief advantages and disadvantages, and what are some of the important features of good stacking?

August 31.—What do you consider the average farmer should have as a library to which to refer from time to time? Give your opinion of agricultural books, bulletins, reports, etc., and other available reading matter.

September 7.—Give suggestions on exhibiting field roots and garden vegetables at local fairs. Many exhibitors pay little or no attention to making their display attractive. What have you to suggest on collection of specimens and their preparation at the show table?

### Disc Plows for General Use

In submitting this week's contributions in reply to our topic for discussion we do not support

or condemn disc plows. Readers who had not used them wanted the experiences of those who had. We decided they were entitled to whatever information we could gather.

It is very evident from the tone of the letters that, like many other farm implements, disc plows have a place in farm equipment. On heavy soils, particularly when deep plowing is wanted, they give general satisfaction. Those who purpose buying a plow should study the following letters and make their purchase according to conditions.

Our cash awards of \$3.00 and \$2.00 have been made in the order in which the contributions appear.

### Disc Plows Have a Place

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

It is some eight or nine years since we first had experience with the disc plow. At that time we considered it an ideal kind of plow, both from the thoroughness of the work it did and from the easiness with which it could be manipulated. We first put it into manured stubble land. The discs were sharp and cut a clean furrow right through the manure, although not always burying it. The draft of the double discs was light for three horses, although we were quite pleased with the work. Later on we grew dissatisfied with its work in ordinary stubble land. We considered the furrow was turned too loose, and so the stubble was not buried well enough. The discs also became dull, and consequently did not take such a keen hold on the ground, or cut as clean a furrow, being useless on manured land. When the discs became thickened with wear, the draft became heavier. Three horses at first could handle it quite easily; now, it is all four horses can do.

The double disc plows commonly used will not cut as wide as the same draft of mould-board plows. A 12 inch gang mould-board plow can be made to cut a full 24-inch strip, and still do the work in proper shape. An ordinary double disc plow will not cut more than 20 inches properly, though it will do this and not leave any sign of a cone on the inner edge of the furrow. A mould-board plow may "cut and cover," leaving the cone covered by the furrow so that it might not be easily seen. It is different with the disc plow, as it throws its furrow much farther and thus if a cone is left it can be seen. A furrow by the disc plow is turned and thrown more than the width of itself, so it is quite easy to see when you are doing a proper job. Sometimes a mould-board plow does not throw its furrow quite clear, but allows it to double up. This is impossible with a disc plow. Still I think that when properly handled the mould-board plow in ordinary stubble land does much the better work.

The disc plow works well in stony land and among roots. We have worked ours in both places, and the discs work round the stones and roots quite readily. In this kind of land they will stand a lot of hard usage. The plow never gets stuck, and, when sharp, will cut through a good sized root; or, if not, will ride over it. With the disc plow it makes all the difference in the world whether the discs are sharp or dull, both in the draft and quality of work done. A new disc will do good work through perhaps two seasons without much attention. The discs cannot be hammered like a plowshare, but they can be filed or ground to sharpen them. As they wear they get smaller, but that seems to make little difference. A new disc will cost about twice as much as a plowshare, but will last twice as long.

There are two places where we consider the disc plow to be quite superior to any other kind of plow; that is, in back-setting sod and in plowing a field the second time. In backsetting the disc plow will work where the mould-board gang will not. It cuts its way through clear and cuts up the sod, leaving it in grand shape to get at with the harrow. In plowing summerfallow or other field second time over the disc plow is the right machine. It always works well in loose soil, and will always clean. Just here it