

Our Ottawa Letter

Agricultural Implement Duties Debated

(By The Guide Special Correspondent)

Ottawa, Mar. 13.—“In the opinion of this house the time has arrived when, in the interests of the farmers, and consequently in the interests of the whole of Canada, the duties on agricultural implements should be forthwith removed.”

The foregoing clear cut amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply, moved by W. E. Knowles, of Moose Jaw, was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday by a government majority of 38, after a long debate. The speaking was confined principally to the members of the opposition, the reasons for the rejection of the motion being given by Premier Borden in a fifteen minutes' speech, which was supplemented at a late hour in the evening by a speech from Hon. Arthur Meighen, who, in January, 1911, when a member of the opposition, moved a

PRIZE COMPETITION AWARDS

Prizes for the best reports on co-operative work have been awarded as follows:

FIRST PRIZE—\$10—C. H. Burnell, Oakville, Man.

SECOND PRIZE—\$8—J. W. Brougham, Ingelow, Man.

THREE PRIZES OF \$5 EACH—Mel. Harlton, Regent G. G. A., Wapaha P.O., Man.; Ben Boughen, Valley River, Man.; and W. J. Lovie, Holland, Man.

FOUR PRIZES OF \$2 EACH—Chas. W. Dyer, Clapton P.O., Sask.; J. A. Ludlow, Empire Builders' G. G. A., Assiniboia, Sask.; George Love, Ninga, Man.; and Ed. Brown, Boissevain, Man.

FIVE PRIZES OF \$1 EACH—F. B. Sulman, Blackfoot, Alta.; Chas. C. Colquhoun, Maple Creek, Sask.; Fred Williamson, Strathclair, Man.; Archie A. Ford, Vista, Man.; and H. H. Dicconson, Fartown P.O., Sask.

resolution advocating the reduction of the duty on implements.

The principal arguments which would be advocated in support of free implements are so well known that the chief interest will centre in the reasons given by Mr. Borden for declining to accept the motion. There was, of

course, the constitutional reason, namely, that announcements in regard to the tariff are never made except when the budget is brought down. Mr. Borden did not, however, confine his remarks to this aspect of the question but went on to advance some arguments against the practicability of the proposal. As

was to be expected he twitted the opposition with not having done much in the way of reducing these duties when they were in power. The reciprocity pact, he said, would have reduced the duty on wagons by two and a half per cent., on plows by five per cent., on harvesters and reapers two and a half per cent., agricultural drills and planters by five per cent., mowers by two and a half per cent., horse rakes by five per cent., cultivators by five per cent., and threshing machines by five per cent. No reduction whatever was provided for portable engines with boilers and traction engines for farm purposes. He considered that, in view of these proposals, the member for Moose Jaw had advanced very much in advocacy of free implements since 1911.

Mr. Borden went on to say that the

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