

## RURAL TELEPHONES IN MANITOBA.

With the taking over of the Bell Telephone system in Manitoba by the Provincial Government, considerable misunderstanding with regard to the relation of the Government system to rural lines has developed. Many people are under the impression that the Government will build local lines to farmers' houses just as soon as the work can be proceeded with, but this is not, by any means, the case. The policy of the Government with regard to local telephones is to induce and encourage municipalities to build lines connecting farmers, and to connect such lines with the nearest Government exchange. The municipalities are advised to build and maintain the rural system after it is connected with the Government exchange in the nearest town, city or village, and, for the privilege of connection, \$3 to \$8 per year is charged each subscriber. Or, if the municipality desires, the Government will maintain the system at an additional cost of approximately \$6 per year. In encouraging the municipality to build such a system, the Government gives the services of its engineers, and supplies the quotations of different firms for apparatus, and suggests what it considers best. It also urges that all municipal systems that desire to connect with a Government exchange have the metallic circuit. So much for the municipal systems.

But in case a municipality does not care to erect a system, and a community of farmers in the municipality are anxious to instal phones, local companies may be formed, and a local system erected by the subscribers. Such a system will be connected at the nearest Government exchange, and the benefits of the exchange given for from \$3 to \$8 per year per subscriber, the local company to maintain its own system, or, for an additional charge, the Government will maintain the system, as in the case of the municipal phones. A company of farmers near Deloraine, for instance, have made such an arrangement, and get the benefit of the Deloraine exchange, and a considerable connection east and west. Other companies have been receiving service at Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Oak Lake, Hamiota and other points.

In other cases, where the Bell company had built a rural line and connected it with a central exchange, each subscriber is charged \$24 per year, which includes all maintenance and management.

New subscribers, located close to the lines, may now be added at \$4 per year, making application to the telephone agents, but if those desiring telephone connection are located some distance away, they may form a small company and build to meet a Government line. And the rate for the service will be an annual rental of from \$3 to \$8 per annum, a rental of \$8 per mile for a party line on Government poles, and then the balance of the line will be owned and maintained by the farmers.

Thus, there are three different bases upon which rural phones may be installed: First, the municipal system; second, connection directly with a central exchange; and, third, lines connected and maintained by companies of farmers, who pay for the service of the central and the rental of the Government connecting line.—[Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal, Winnipeg.]

## ROUND SLING TRACK SIMPLER AND CHEAPER.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue, a reader asks which pattern of slings are best; also, wooden or steel track? We have used the ordinary slings. Two stakes are provided, one on each outside of sill and center of rack; one end of sling hangs on tail-piece and front ladder, and other on center stakes. The load is built in four bundles. We prefer these for the following reasons: Cost is not nearly so much (about \$2.00 per set of four); they are handier; may be done up like plow lines and hung on tail-pieces; are by no means so clumsy; when mow is nearly full, and sheaves fall on slings, they are easily drawn out. We use hay fork for hay.

We use and prefer the round track; the cost is not nearly so much, the car is much simpler and lighter, the rod is more easily put up, the round track is easier on barn, and it is impossible for car to bind. Some may doubt that the round track is easier on barn. The end rafters are braced for three spaces, to prevent springing; all the draw is endways, letting all the barn take part of strain at once, except when bundle is going up, and these rafters are thoroughly braced. In the steel track (or angle steel, it is sometimes called), the track is fastened to each alternate rafter, and while bundle is passing under these, all the weight is thrown on the one set of rafters.

A well-known hay-carrier manufacturer once said to one of his agents, "We advise you, when the barn appears strong, to recommend our angle-steel track, because the sale of these is more profitable to you; but in an old or weak barn, you had better use the round track." We have had the steel track pull the rafters out, but have never had the round track do so. We did not know the wooden track was used at all now, except when put in some time ago. H. W.

## THE USE OF UNLOADING SLINGS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I often see questions in your journal re the use of slings for unloading sheaves. I beg to offer a few hints, having had nearly 40 years' experience. I find it a good plan to be able to change from the hay fork to the slings, and vice versa, with as little delay as possible; and also find the shorter the slings the better, as they pull out of the mow more easily, and the best way to accomplish this is to make a rack, with an adjustable post in the center of the rack, the rack

not being more than 14 or 15 feet long. I use a double rope for the fork, and for sheaves I simply remove the fork and adjust a short hook, something like the hook on the end of a whiffletree, and, in fact, this hook would answer. Into the ring post we tie or wire a small pulley, just large enough to take a half-inch rope—the trip rope used with the hay fork. This rope is passed through this small pulley, and a knot tied about 20 inches from the end so it cannot pull through the pulley, and now it answers admirably to pull the car and slings back.

Now we take the ring end of the slings and place it on the small end of this hook, which has been described as taking the place of the hay fork (a blacksmith could make one to order for 10 cents). Now, we take the short end of the trip-rope on the knot side of the little pulley, and draw it down and pass it through the other or loop ends of the slings. Now take the long end of the trip rope, and tie it over to the 20-in. end, and you are ready to pull your bundle of sheaves exactly as you would a forkful of hay. But the difficulty comes in here, how are we to trip the load after it reaches the mow, as the knot will draw very tight. To remedy this, put a loop or bow knot, so that when the long end of the trip-rope is pulled, it will loosen and drop the load. But, to make it pull easy, I place a wooden sleeve on the long post of the trip-rope and slide it into the knot, and then everything works nicely; no chains or other metals dangling about your head when pulling the slings back. By this arrangement, we can use exceptionally short slings, and the trip-rope can adjust itself for any-sized load. Figure 1 shows the parts in operation; Figure 2, the parts after being unloaded; A in Fig. 2, the wooden sleeve, which can be moved along the rope to any point to meet the knot; Figure 3 is an enlarged view of the sleeve in the bow knot, and simply pulls the long part of the trip rope to the right, and down drops the load. This knot must be tied as shown, or it will not hold.

Lambton Co., Ont.

G. A. ANNETT.

## GIVE THE FARM LABORER A CHANCE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am writing as a farm laborer. I am proud of being one, and a Canadian at that. I have great sympathy with our brothers from the Old Land. There is room for us all here, if farmers would only think so. I have in the past had the pleasure of working with one or two very decent fellows from the Old Country. I think the farmers of this country have not used the immigrant boys as they should have done, and it is the same way with the Canadian boys. I believe this country is lacking in what I call good farm laborers.

The farm products of this great Province of ours are only half of what they should be. Now, I believe that is for lack of good farm laborers. What I call good farm laborers are boys who take such interest in the work as if they were working for themselves on their own farms. I know of boys who take more interest in the work than many farmers do themselves on their own farms, which may have been left to them through their forefathers, who worked hard for them. If the ancestors were to see how careless so many of their descendants are to-day with their farms, for lack of good farm laborers! I think a farm laborer should work for the love of the work, instead of the love for the money which he receives for his labor. Money is all right in its place, if used in the right way. I do believe farmers are not using their farm help as they should do; that is, to encourage them to take an interest in the work on the farm. What would please a young farm boy more than for his employer to lend him a horse and rig once in a while to go to the town or village to see his friends, or perhaps to his home; that is, if he could be trusted with the horse, and would not abuse it in any way? I believe this and a few other little things would pay an employer in the long run, and good help would not be so scarce as it has been in the past. I have heard many fellows say that farm life was too quiet for them, and that they would not work for a farmer who did not try to save their footsteps in any way after working hard for him all day.

Now, Mr. Editor, I am a reader of your valuable paper, and have read with interest "The Farmer's Advocate" for the last six or seven years. It is read in nearly every home in our neighborhood, and I hear everyone praising it as "the paper" of the present time. I advise every reader of this journal to read the Home Magazine. My heart has a great desire for the "Quiet Hour," and the words that are written from week to week give one great encouragement to hope for the future, and trust in God and do the right.

Brant Co., Ont.

FARM LABORER.



Fig. 1

Sling in Operation.

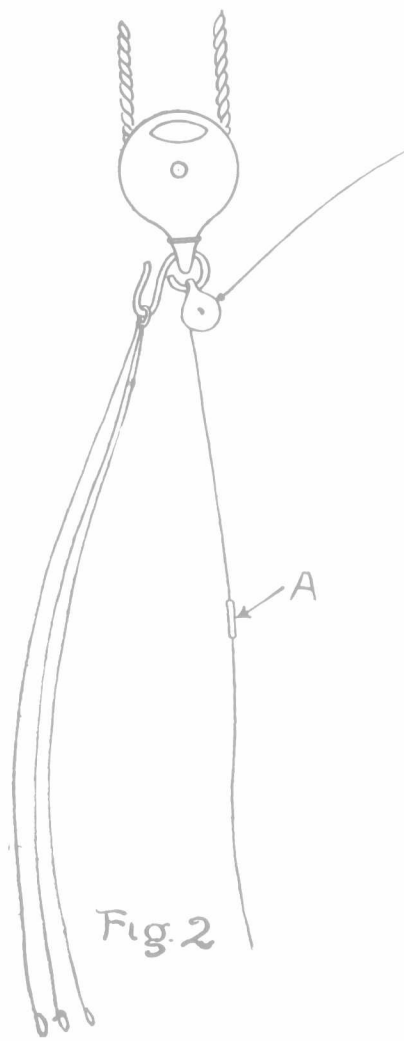


Fig. 2

Sling Unloaded.

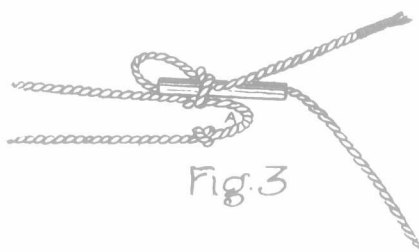


Fig. 3

Wooden Sleeve.