

Paying for a Service of Their Own

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—I have been reading the series of articles published by you on "Free Rural Mail Delivery," and have found them interesting. I don't see why the Canadian Government would not be justified in introducing free rural delivery in Canada. Of course it will cost something to start, but it takes money to make money, and the farmers have just as much right to have their mail delivered to them as have the people in the cities. I am sure they pay their share of the taxes, and that is no small sum. If the Government would pay a little less in bonuses to railways, and these coal and iron and steel companies, and establish "Free Rural Mail Delivery," it would be better, as the farmers would see their money coming back to them again in another form, which would benefit them in more ways than one.

The service would be a benefit to the farmers in several ways. In the first place, we would have to keep the roads in good condition all the year around. In the busy parts of the year, when both horses and people are tired, they don't like lying down, instead of hitching up, and driving through the heat and dust, after the mail. If they had free delivery they could spend that part of their time at home.

As for the farmers being ready for free rural mail delivery, I think they are. There is a small place near Paris named Canning, and a man comes from there every morning with the mail. As he passes several farms on his trip, he takes the farmers' mail to them, the farmers paying for such service out of their own pockets. This goes to show that the farmers are ready and anxious to get their mail, or a daily paper, every day. I wish your valuable paper every success in promoting the interests of the farmers.

S. N. Patten, Brant Co., Ont.

Eastern Township, Quebec Notes

Human nature is hard to satisfy. At the time of writing my last notes the farmers were grumbling because of too much rain, which had retarded seeding considerably. To-day, these persons are grumbling because they are having too much dry weather. Oh, could we only get dame Nature to even things up! I am afraid that even then we would do a certain amount of grumbling. When we see our pastures become bare and brown, as at present in many sections, and little rain for the cows to feed on, we would not be human if we did not take it seriously. Through the western part of the province, there has been but little rain, and the bare clays have not responded in growth as if more moisture had been received. On our farms and lands full of organic matter this drought is not so noticeable. This is an argument in favor of keeping our soil in good heart, and well-drained. The wet clays of last spring have become baked, and will yield over half the return in hay or grain that was anticipated. What promised to be a bumper hay crop a few weeks ago, turns out to be much less than an average one, although better than last year. Whether the situation is as bad as last season, is as yet too early to tell. Hay prices are running from \$4.50 to \$5 a ton less than at this time last year. This may be attributed to the light supplies at this time last year, as compared with the supply of old hay on hand, and also to there being little demand at present for hay for export.

In my last letter I mentioned the fact that a number of new seeded meadows had not a good stand of

grass, and that they had been seeded again with oats, after being worked up with the disc harrow. These fields promise well, and with a sufficient amount of moisture, will give a good cut. Possibly the drought is more noticeable in our pasture lands than in the hay and grain crops as the pastures are becoming bare, and consequently the milk flow is much reduced. The cows are giving an average of 4 lbs. of milk less a day than they were a week ago. As few have carried over silage from last spring there is nothing to feed but clover or hay, it being yet too early to cut the soiling crops. During the month of June, there was a large milk flow, consequently the shippers to Montreal did not get all their surplus milk to the city. There the demand had not got back to its normal after last winter, when so many of the citizens reduced, or cut out, milk from their diet. However, if the present conditions continue for any length of time there will be a scarcity of milk in the city.

LESS BUTTER AND CHEESE

The supply of milk made into butter and cheese is less than former years, owing to a larger quantity going to the city, as well as much of it going to the condensary at Huntington. This is noticeable, in that less cheese and butter is boarded than formerly on the several cheese boards throughout the country. The prices for butter range about 3 cents higher than at this time last year. Cheese is selling about 1½ cents more a lb. At the Huntington board last week butter sold for 22½¢ and cheese for 11 15-16¢. At Cowansville butter sold for the same price, but cheese sold from 11 3/4 to 12 cents. At St. Hyacinthe butter sold for 23½¢ and cheese for 12 and 12-16 cents a lb.

Last week saw record shipments of butter and cheese from Montreal and Quebec, there being 95,393 boxes of cheese shipped from the former port, and 9,609 from the latter. The total shipments by the St. Lawrence route since the opening of navigation, has been 384,693 boxes, as compared with 443,624 for the corresponding period of 1907. Exports of butter last week amounted to 8,181 packages, as against 1,779 packages for the corresponding week of last year. The total exports since May 1st were 22,667 packages, compared with 3,572 packages for the corresponding period of last year. The decrease in the export of cheese has scarcely been made up by the increase in the export of butter. Taking the home consumption into consideration, which is equally as large as last year, it would appear that a much larger amount of milk is being made into butter, and less into cheese, than last year.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS

Hay making will be general in a few days. So far only a few fields of clover have been cut. We do not expect hay to net us over a two-thirds crop. Grain is coming on well, the early sown grain is heading and is very short. Potatoes are doing well but need moisture to keep on a continued growth. The potato beetle is unusually active, and the potatoes have to be sprayed every few days. Corn has come up very unevenly, though we notice some very good fields where the conditions have been favorable for quick growth. There have been no very nice. On the bare clays, however, especially where they have been spring plowed, the corn crop is weak. The larger crops have been put in than usual, and many more new silos are going up. The root crops are suffering from the drought. Much cows continue to sell well, as high as \$75 and \$80 having been



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paid for high class grade cows. Pork sells for about \$6 a cwt. on foot. There is not the number of hogs being kept this season, I think, owing to the high price of grain feed. The labor problem is not quite so acute as it has been of late years. There seems to be more home men, besides more immigrants have come to us. These latter have relieved the situation very much, although much of such help is not of a superior class.

A Chance For You

"I received the pig in first-class order, and thank you for your trouble. Also thank Mr. Snowden for the one he picked out, o send me, for she is a dandy, and is a good advertisement for his stock."—H. Robert Bennie, Renfrew Co., Ont.

There are still some more of these pigs which are to be given away as premiums for obtaining only seven new subscribers to The Dairyman and Farming World. Why not try to secure one? Here is a chance for you to make use of your spare time. We offer premiums for any number of new subscribers for our paper,

from one to one thousand. It doesn't matter if you have only a little time to spare each day, or each week. You can make use of your spare time and earn some money, even if you have, though of course the more time you devote to the work, the better prize you will win.

Think over our premium offer, which is published on the back cover. Write us for further particulars. We will gladly send them to you, and assist you in every way possible with the work. Every day we receive letters from our readers who have become interested in some of our offers, and wish to make their spare time profitable. Read these extracts from letters which we have received lately:

Mr. Thomas Lucy, of Frontenac County, says: "Please send me some sample copies of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World. I want to see if I can earn some of your premiums or cash prizes. I think it is a pretty good offer."

"I am interested in your cash prizes for subscriptions to your paper. Kindly send me full particulars, and sample copies."—Mr. John R. McKee, Glengarry County.