



176 Modern Practical Progressive Ideas

# FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



The Recognized Exponee of Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

Vol. XXXIV

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 18, 1915

No. 7

## A Telephone for One Dollar a Year

### A Farmer's Cooperative Line Has Made This Low Rate Possible

THE Durham Union Telephone Company, operated on lines that spell pure cooperation, is affording its shareholders the cheapest service of any telephone company in Canada. If there is cheaper service afforded by any other line, that line must be non-incorporated, and therefore not registered with the railway commission. The minimum charge on the Durham Union line is \$1 a year, and some subscribers actually never exceed this small charge. The price varies with the number of times that the phone is used on other than the one-party line. The highest charge on the whole system is paid by a general merchant in the village of Orono who uses his phone frequently in connection with his business, and even he has never yet paid as much as \$4 a year.

The charge is not small because the service is limited. The Durham Union lines practically cover Clarke township of Durham Co., Ont., with 235 subscribers. In addition, connections can be made with other cooperative lines in neighboring townships. The towns of Port Hope, Newcastle and Bowmanville can be reached at a small charge. Arrangements have been made for long distance connections with the Bell system. Such a service at such an exceptionally low charge is unusual and made possible only by cooperation.

#### A 'Phone in the Stable

That Durham county had a successful rural phone system, I had known for a long time. With the outstanding success of this system I became acquainted a few months ago when on a visit to Orono. As usual I dropped in to see Mr. A. J. Tamblin. We were standing in the stable talking Holstein cattle, corn harvest, war prospects, and so forth, when a 'phone rang close at hand.

"That is the latest addition to the farm equipment," remarked Mr. Tamblin when he returned from answering the 'phone.

"And a convenient one, too, I should say."

"You're just right it is," was the hearty response. "Why, before I had that 'phone put in the stable, my wife had to come down to the stable for me as much as seven times during the milking hour, and always to get me to answer the 'phone at the house. Now all that she has to do is connect the house 'phone with the stable 'phone and ring me up. I can talk to Toronto right from the cow stable, and have done so several times."

"You see, I am secretary of our local Fruit Growers' Association," said Mr. Tamblin in explanation of the numerous calls that he receives. "At this season of the year particularly, I am being continually called up by members of the

association and by apple dealers. Of course it is a convenience in a domestic way as well. If Mrs. Tamblin wants a little extra milk brought up to the house, why, she calls me up on the 'phone. It's away ahead of the system of bells that we had at one time."

#### \$10 Versus Nothing

"Quite an expensive convenience, though, isn't it?" I remarked, thinking of the extension

## The United Farmers of Ontario

The first annual meeting of The United Farmers of Ontario will be held in the

Hotel Carla-Rite, Toronto

ON

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

February 23rd and 24th

Every Farmers' Club, Farmers' Association and local Grange in Ontario should be represented by delegates at these meetings. The programme of the meetings is published on page 10 of this issue. Since The United Farmers of Ontario were organized last March the movement has made great progress. A large and successful convention

On the evening preceding, or Wednesday, February 24, will be held the first annual meeting of The United Farmers' Cooperative Co. Limited. The shareholders will have a chance to hear all about the great success and difficulties the company has had since its organization. The sales of this company in the month of January alone amounted to \$34,761. Much depends on the success of these meetings and the farmers of Ontario should see that they are largely attended.

Let the farmers of Ontario be as united as the farmers of Western Canada.

'phone in the Farm and Dairy office that costs \$10 a year.

"The machine cost me \$8 and I installed it myself," replied Mr. Tamblin. "There is no extra charge for this 'phone, and the one at the house costs only about \$3 a year."

"Three dollars," I exclaimed almost incredulously. "Why, I never heard of such a small charge."

"No, I dare say you haven't, unless you have investigated the Durham Union Telephone Company," replied Mr. Tamblin with a pride of local achievement in his voice. "My charge is high. I don't suppose there's another on the whole line pays as much as I do. I know of several who

pay \$1.75 and \$2, some \$1.50, and others even less."

I was right after more information. "I'll tell you what to do," said Mr. Tamblin, "take this afternoon to visit W. S. Colville up at Mount Herman Terrace. He had a lot to do with establishing our telephone line, and will be glad to see you. In the meantime, come on in and have dinner."

After four miles' riding I decided that I should be near Mr. Colville's, and halting a man plowing in a field adjoining the road, asked for the necessary information. "You'll find him in the house by the windmill; and say, would you mind getting his mail out of the box at the corner over there and taking it up to him?" The thoughtfulness of the request gave me reason to believe that the public spirit of Mr. Colville is appreciated by his neighbors. Mr. Colville himself I found to be an invalid. He has not left his bed for years, but he has not, I found, lost any interest in municipal affairs, and was ready and anxious to tell all about the Durham Union Telephone Company when I stated my mission.

#### Full and Minute Information

"There is the minute book of our line on top of the desk," he directed me. I got it. "There is the last bunch of bills for our subscribers on that file." I got them. For the next two hours we studied minutes and talked 'phone. But most of my information came from Mr. Colville. Minutes are dry things at best, and these were no exception to the rule. Likewise, Mr. Colville's remarks carried us far back into history before a minute book was thought of.

"Like most rural lines; the ones" in Clark township were started by a country physician," said he. "The first line was built by Dr. Lapp southwards from Pentypool. The doctor, I believe, built the line largely to convert bad debts into something that would be of value to him and his practice. Men who owed him and were unable or unwilling to pay, supplied poles and did the work. Call stations were established at various points along the line. This was purely a physicians' line. A second line was started in the same way by Dr. M. M. Tucker, and ran from Orono northwards to meet Dr. Lapp's line at the home of C. J. Thornton, where a switch was established. It, too, was a physician's line. The first line was built some dozen years ago. A year or so afterwards Albert Walsh organized a line from The News Office, Orono, to Starkville, with about 30 members. Mr. Walsh is at present studying for the ministry."

#### The First Farmers' Line

This first line was not for general use. The first real farmers' line in the township is the one that now runs from Orono to Tyrone, a distance of 14 miles. My informant, I gathered, was a leading spirit in the establishment of this line,

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