

year. Timothy, because it is cheaper, is being bought more than clover, by farmers. This extra buying has advanced the price of this also; \$7.25 a cwt., is a good figure to pay even for choice timothy seed.

There has been an increased demand this spring for alfalfa seed, and it looks as if farmers were going more extensively into the growing of this splendid fodder crop. There is a danger, however, of some going more extensively into its culture than they should. It would be better to grow a little slowly at the start, and find out if the land is in condition to grow it successfully. To go into it extensively, as some are doing, judging from the amount of seed they are buying, is somewhat risky, and especially if they have not grown it before. Alfalfa is one of the most profitable crops a farmer can grow, and five to ten acres on every farm would add immensely to the number of live stock that could be kept in this country. We are, therefore, glad to see this desire on the part of farmers to grow more alfalfa. At the same time, go slowly, until they have tested the matter and thoroughly understood the handling of the crop, is sound advice. We would be pleased to have the experience of alfalfa growers on this point.

The general effect of less clover seeding this spring will be serious. Less clovering means a lowering of soil fertility and, consequently, a lessening in crop production.

Rural Telephones

R. H. Harding, President East Middlesex Telephone Corporation Association

The greatest mistake many rural telephone companies have made, has been building their lines too cheaply, in quality of wire, poles and phones. It pays to use the best material, such as the best wire, made especially for telephone work, and to build a metallic line. Procure the best long-distance phones. Even if you are building for only local business, you will find you must soon connect with other local companies, or with the Bell, or perhaps with both, in order to serve your subscribers, and extend and hold your business. Don't get so anxious for business that you will overlap the territory of other companies, as cheese companies are in the habit of doing, just to satisfy some disgruntled party along their line, thereby spending the profits that should be placed in a rest fund, or paid out in dividends. While this may appear as unlikely to happen in the district where no company exists yet as soon as one company is organized it is surprising how soon others in the adjoining township or village begin to hustle in the same direction.

Our company was organized nearly two years ago under the name of The East Middlesex Telephone Co-operative Association, Limited. I would prefer to be a little more expensive and get a charter, as a joint stock company in which case a company could run into debt, if need be, in order to build main lines. We are not supposed to go into debt under the co-operative system. Our lines are built of the best material throughout, 30 ft. poles, 6 in. top, being used on trunk lines, with 20 ft. poles on branch lines, using 25 ft. poles at cross roads, and gateways. There is less difficulty with tree trimming where 20 ft. poles are used than where higher ones are installed. We put a wire upon every fifth pole as a lightning conductor, and although we have built about 80 miles of line, 30 to 32 poles per mile, we have had no poles injured by lightning as yet. Any

one wishing to have a phone, must take at least two \$10 shares in the company, and supply and erect the poles necessary inside his own property. The company supplies everything else necessary, and keeps the same in order, for which the subscriber pays \$10 a year in advance. Just half the tolls that are collected from non-subscribers. Our system cost about \$50 a mile, with one phone to a mile. We now have 30 phones installed and more applied for. It will be only a matter of perhaps a year until our present lines will be loaded to their full capacity, as we now have as many as fifteen phones upon one line.

We arranged with the Bell Telephone Company for connection with their lines. This has been fairly satisfactory to us. Without it we would have been handicapped, as long distance connection was what several of our subscribers wanted. I believe that this connection is of more benefit to the Bell financially than to our company. Our system has proved of such convenience that I don't think many of our subscribers would do without their phones, even though they cost twice the amount charged. The dissatisfaction against the Bell Company could, and would, be made right, if, when granted a franchise, for any town or city, the Government compelled the Bell people to grant other telephone companies interconnecting privileges at rates fixed by the Government, or by a commission. This would be much better for all concerned than to allow competing lines to install their systems within a corporation, thus necessitating many business firms having two or more separate phones in the same office.

Have Formed an Association

In future, the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition will be under the control of an Association that will be called The Ontario Horticultural Exhibition

Association. At a meeting of the Directors of the Association held recently, it was decided to organize and become incorporated under 'The Associations' Act.' A Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., R. J. Score, Toronto; Pres., W. H. Bunting, St. Catharines; First Vice-Pres., H. R. Frankland, Toronto; Second Vice-Pres., Mr. Couse,

Streetsville; Treasurer, J. H. Dunlop, Toronto; Sec., P. W. Hodggets, Toronto.

A few sheep will pay, and pay well on almost any farm. To the farmer who finds it hard to get help or has some fields that will persist in growing weeds, I think that keeping sheep must commend itself—Stanley A. Logan, N. S., Agricultural College Farm.

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Talking Machine?

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Better your present conditions by getting a line on one of these places.

Write at once for map showing locations of these different farms. There are only about Two Hundred of these locations available at present, so that it is advisable for you to get a selection. : : : : : Correspond at once.

E. H. WHITE - - **Battleford, Sask.**
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