

tario and Quebec sugar makers not co-operate and form an association for the purpose of advancing their mutual interests?

### Rural Delivery Favored and Opposed

Readers of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World are evidently much interested in the series of articles we are publishing in regard to Free Rural Delivery in the United States. Some of our subscribers who have missed copies of their paper have written requesting that the missing numbers shall be sent them in order that they may not miss any of the articles in the series. One man wrote that the bundle of papers for his Post Office had not arrived and that they were all waiting anxiously for their copies.

Some of our readers are not in favor of Rural Delivery. Mr. R. W. Ralsten, Postmaster at Amherst, N.S., is one who is opposed to it. In a letter received from him recently, Mr. Ralsten said:

"I am following with interest the discussion now going on in the columns of The Dairyman and Farming World for and against free rural mail delivery in Canada. I am against this scheme. It will entail an enormous financial burden on the country, and will be a means whereby the unscrupulous politician will be able to forward his ambitions to the serious detriment of the country. The honest man, who wishes the country well and tries to do the right thing, will not have a chance with him.

"I am against it because it tends to centralize. The country store and post office are factors in the life of every community. Prosperous towns have grown up all over this continent from just such beginnings as the 'country store,' 'the post office,' 'the wayside hotel,' and the small factory. I am against it because it robs the farmer's child of a certain educational advantage. A trip to the post office after the day's work or a call on the way to or from school, gives the child a certain amount of insight along business lines, and assists in fitting him or her for citizenship. If the government wants to do anything really fine, let them nationalize the telephones. Make every post office a telephone office, put the charges in the reach of all, place it on the same footing as the postal service, i.e., you must pay the rate or your letter won't go; likewise, if you take the receiver down you must pay the toll."

### MORE OPPOSITION

Still another of our readers, in the person of Mr. E. J. Dunbar, of Melbourne Ridge, Que., is opposed to rural delivery. He has asked us the following pointed question:

"Do you imagine that the majority of Canadian farmers will allow themselves to be taxed in order that a small minority, who live on the rural mail routes, can have their mail delivered to them everyday?"

### FARMER'S DON'T WANT IT

Mr. John Eldridge, of Hepworth, Bruce County, claims that farmers do not want the service. He says:

"I have read your articles on Rural Mail delivery for the last month and as you wished to hear from the farmers, I have come to the conclusion that the farmers do not want it. In the first place the farmers never asked for anything of the kind. I have attended a great many Farmers' Institute meetings and it was never even spoken about and I think the farmers are capable of knowing what their needs are and are not slow in asking for anything that is necessary for their good. The present mail service is perfectly satisfactory. Post offices are in every village and store and some in private houses all over the country. We have to go to the

stores and railway stations two or three times a week with butter and other provisions to sell and also to ship hogs and cattle. It would be strange if we could not bring home our own mail. I have seven weekly and one daily paper coming every week and I find no difficulty in getting them. It would have been better if so much had not been said about the matter till the Farmers had been consulted. There may be a few in favor of any wild scheme but the great majority I believe do not want it. It would be a great expense and no good purpose would be served.

### WHAT THEY ARE DOING IN EUROPE

Others of our readers are in favor of Rural Delivery. Mr. David Howse, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, writes: "Why not suggest to Hon. Mr. Lemieux that he should introduce parcel post in conjunction with Rural Delivery? In Germany, you can send an 11 pound parcel, 50 miles for six cents, and throughout Germany, Austria and Hungary for 12 cents. The profits on this and other such monopolies, go toward the reduction, not the increase of taxation."

### VIEWS OF OTHERS WANTED

We will be very much surprised if Mr. Eldridge does not find that there are a great many farmers in this country who want free rural mail delivery and they are not light headed men either. For instance, Mr. T. A. Thompson, of Almonte, told us recently that he lives four miles from his post office. He holds a municipal office and frequently receives seven and eight letters in a mail. On different occasions he has been handed his mail just as he was leaving for home. On reaching home he has found that some of the letters required to be answered immediately, and has had to hitch up and drive back four miles to town. Mr. Thompson states that there are many other farmers in his section who are in the same position. Scores of similar cases might be cited.

There is a general impression that the expense of rural free delivery will be ruinous. In this connection we would like to draw the attention of our readers to the fact that this side of the question has not been dealt with yet in the series of articles that we are publishing. When it is some interesting information will be brought out. Our series of articles will run for two or three months yet. In the meantime we hope that more of our readers will make their views known. This is probably the most important question that is before our Canadian farmers. We want the views of those who are opposed to rural delivery as well as of those who favor it.

### Canada's Heritage

Before the agricultural committee at Ottawa on the 21st day of March, Mr. E. Young of the Department of the Interior gave some interesting figures as to the possibilities of grain growing in the west. If the present wheat area of the west yields 100,000,000 bushels it was no great stretch of imagination to look for a future wheat production in this country of 1,500,000,000 bushels worth three times the total foreign trade of Canada. Latitude does not govern climate in Canada. In summer it is just as warm in Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie river as it is in other parts of the Dominion. Cabbage, lettuce and potatoes can be grown successfully within 14 miles of the Arctic circle. Owing to the long days in summer growth is rapid. Wheat grown last year at Fort Simpson in latitude 62 ran 62 pounds to the bushel and was of fine quality. The Southern boundary of the province of Tokolek in Siberia is 100 miles farther north than Edmonton and yet that province has a population of 1,500,000 people, and in 1900 produced 64,000,000 bushels of wheat and 10,000,000 bushels of oats.

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