

ulations to be published and enforced shortly at the junction of every concession line with the main road. The people will also be given the privilege of having boxes located for the receipt and collection of their mail as desired.

#### WILL BE INTRODUCED IMMEDIATELY

"The department has made all arrangements for the carrying out of the scheme and will at once proceed to inaugurate it. This system of rural mail delivery can be introduced at a cost which the country can afford to pay. It will evolve and expand gradually, with the growth and development of Canada, and at a ratio of cost that will not prove burdensome. It is, on the whole, a great postal reform which will be hailed."

#### WHAT MR. LEMIEUX SAID BEFORE

When our representative interviewed Hon. Rodolph Lemieux on this subject, in his office in Ottawa last October, he found that Hon. Mr. Lemieux was opposed at that time to the introduction of free rural mail delivery into Canada. Speaking to our representative, he said:

"The two great objections I see to the introduction of free rural mail delivery, are first, the great expense; and second, the difficulty of knowing what to do with our thinly populated rural sections. Such sections would be quick to demand a similar service. What for instance, would we do with my own constituency of Gaspé, or with the people on the Labrador coast or those in such sections as North Pontiac, Quebec? Once free rural mail delivery was introduced in this country the people in those and similar districts would demand the service. To attempt to give it to them would be impracticable.

"Free rural mail delivery might prove a success in such sections as Norfolk and Essex Counties, Ontario. They are gridironed with railways, and thickly populated. We must, however, always remember the sparsely settled sections.

#### IN SYMPATHY WITH THE MOVEMENT

My sympathies are with this movement for free rural delivery. Before we can introduce this system, however, we must decide, first, if it is practical, and second, if our farmers can stand the immense expense it would involve. I am ready to be enlightened on these points and will read with interest the articles that are to be published in *The Canadian Dairymen and Farming World*, and will be open to receive suggestions from them."

#### DESERVES CREDIT

It is fortunate for the farmer of Canada that the Government has changed its views on this subject. The Government is to be congratulated upon the announcement that it has made. After our farmers once find what free rural mail delivery means to them they will wonder why they did not demand it several years ago.

#### How to Train a Collie Dog

T. R. James, Middlesex Co., Ont.

A dog can be made a most useful animal on the farm. A good collie dog properly trained will save its owner many steps in getting the stock from the fields and in helping in many other ways. The great majority of farm dogs are a nuisance rather than a benefit to their owners. In too many cases this is more the fault of their master than of the dog. One cannot expect any common bred cur to become a good shepherd dog. Most must start right and with a pure bred pup of that breed that has been bred for generations for that purpose. Such a pup when properly trained will pay handsomely for the time spent on him.

A large amount of patience and considerable time is required to properly train a dog. He should not be taught too much at once. Training once begun should be kept up until it has been learned thoroughly. One of the first things to teach a dog is to come promptly when called. While teaching him this he should know that he is to obey. If he is favored with a kindly pat or a bit of meat, he will understand more readily.

A dog that will drive cattle by running to their heads is of little use. He must be taught to drive stock at the heel. When teaching him to drive stock keep him at your side while you do the driving. He will thus get accustomed to driving at the heel. Make sure that this habit is well formed before you undertake to teach the dog to turn stock to the right or left. With an over anxious dog it is well to use a rope on him as a restraint. In this way he can be kept from hurrying the stock too fast. Teach the dog to drive slowly and when older he will get the cows from the lot without hurrying or exciting them. One should always be careful not to allow a vicious animal to turn upon the dog while in training. Such will most surely teach him to run to the head when driving. A little time spent upon a good pup while he is young will be richly rewarded later when you have a dog that is a source of profit and pleasure instead of a nuisance.

#### Saddle Horse

Notwithstanding the fact that horse-back exercise is not very much in vogue in the rural districts yet in our larger towns and cities it is practiced to such an extent as to insure a reliable



#### Is Your Binder Sheltered?

During the past few weeks, we have seen many binders left in fence corners of fields in which they had last been used. Large sums of money are annually expended for new machinery by those who leave their implements, especially binders, exposed to the elements, as the above binder was when photographed by our special representative. Such expenditures could be largely reduced by housing all machinery under suitable shelter.

market for good saddle horses. The English Thoroughbred is the breed on which we have to depend for the best horses in this class. We rarely or never find a really high-class saddle horse which has not a good strong dash of this breed in his make-up.

As a rule in the breeding of any class of horse the more highly bred he is the more valuable he is likely to be. In the case of the saddle horse, however, we often find the grade animal more valuable than one more highly bred. However, the grade horse is never more valuable simply because he is a grade, but because he is much more likely to have substance and weight-carrying ability than is the more highly bred animal. The man who weighs about 140 lbs. may enjoy the luxury of riding a thoroughbred, but the man who rides at 200 lbs., or over and requires a mount that will weigh 1,100 or 1,200 lbs., has as a rule to content himself with a grade horse because of the difficulty he will experience in getting a highly bred horse up to his weight.

A large proportion of the brood mares of the country are animals of mixed breeding. Many of them would class as general purpose animals. Sometimes a farmer is at a loss to know just what breed of stallion to select to mate with such mares. In case such a farmer wishes to breed to some of the lighter classes he is not likely to make any selection that will give him better results at the first cross than to choose a good, big, strong Thoroughbred. Many very high-class saddle horses (more especially hunters), have been produced along this line of breeding. Care, however, should be taken to see that the brood mare is not of a draughty type, as a cross be-

tween the draught horse and the Thoroughbred is too violent, and is not usually attended with good results.

Also in the selection of a Thoroughbred sire, care should be exercised to choose a big strong horse with sufficient weight of bone below the knee and back, and one that will weigh at the least 1,200 pounds. Such a sire will be very likely to produce first-class saddle horses, if mated with a reasonably good mare, even though she may be deficient in breeding.—Centaur."

#### We must Depend Upon the Average Cow

G. E. Caldwell, Carleton Co., Ont.

Possibly there is a trace of that egotism, which after all is one of the mainstays of life, in the idea that what we raise is better than the product raised by the other fellow. I have known those who would not eat a morsel of butter when away from home; but to the most of us all good butter tastes well. I have generally found it more difficult to safely buy one horse than to buy half a dozen cows.

In a recent issue of *The Dairymen and Farming World*, W. F. S. raises the question of calf-raising as regards the dairy farmer. For the man who sends his milk to the cheese or butter factory, or who makes butter at home, I quite agree with him, though like all rules there may be profitable exceptions. For the man who supplies the city trade, either wholesale or retail, the rearing of calves is quite out of the question. There is a type of cow which I have in mind, we might call her, broadly, Canadian, and these years that is no mean name, which can be bought for from \$45 to \$60, according to the season. Such will give good average results. Record breakers are very good, but like geniuses they are scarce.

#### HE MUST COUNT ON AVERAGES

The contractor who is going to build a railway or dig a canal must count on the average type of humanity. If he figures on doing the work by Sampsons or Louis Cyr, he is going to be woefully disappointed. And this is just what some dairymen are looking for.

If two fair priced, fair looking cows will turn a given amount of feed into milk, why should we grow old before our time in the quest of one which will do the same? The cost of the one, no matter how she is acquired will certainly equal that of the two. The chance of total loss by death or udder injury is greater. The increased pleasure of owning is balanced by the extra care and anxiety caused for. What then, would I arrest the march of progress? By no means. There will always be geniuses for breeding and feeding and they will have their reward. But I would cheer the man who may be discouraged with the good average cow. By all means destroy in some way the culls; but between them and the "wonders" the great body of milkers stand and they are and for years must be the backbone of Canadian dairying. They will respond to and pay for good treatment the year around.

#### USELESS WITHOUT PROPER ATTENTION

The best engine ever built must have fuel and water, oil and care, to give results. The farmer who can not get good results from the average Canadian cow had better leave the more expensive animals to some one else. Each particular situation needs its own consideration. The man who starts out to copy his neighbor is likely to come to grief. But we can all adapt the ideas we gain from others to our own special needs. If I were at a distance from city markets I would try a very different kind of farming from that which I follow, and I think with just as reasonable chance of success. The corner stone of farming is the production of good crops. Dairying fosters this, hence the profitability. But we must not put the cart before the horse, and in our attention to the machinery for refining the gross products of the farm we must not forget the fundamentals.