

able money but our farmers are willing to pay more taxes if necessary to keep the service, because they know what it means to them.

THE FAMILY ALL AGREED

At the home of Mr. R. H. Jones, of Clifton Springs, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Jones all united in praising the free rural delivery system. "It seems as though we would be lost," said Mrs. Jones, "if we had to go to Clifton Springs every day for our mail the way we used to." "We could not do without it," broke in Mr. Jones, "and if your Canadian farmers ever get it they will never let it go. It saves so much time on man and horse that it pays for itself." "It is like the telephone," said Miss Jones, "it becomes a necessity once you have it and if it costs us more we do not feel it in our taxes."

When told what our government says about the cost of the service, Mr. Jones replied, "Of course your Canadian farmers can vote to do without free rural delivery if they want to. If they think that it costs them too much it is their own business. We have free rural delivery, however, and we intend to keep it and are willing to pay more taxes to do so if we have to. I tell you, it is mighty nice to get your mail delivered at your door, rain or shine. Before, when we were in a hurry to mail a letter, we had

and ordered 96 people on this route to put up good boxes or they will lose the service."

Note—This series of articles will be discontinued during the summer months. Much additional information bearing on this subject will be published in the fall—H. B. C.

The Approved Method of Seed Growing

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In the opinion of those who have given this question special study for many years, and who have carefully considered the various theories regarding plant improvement, heredity, changing of seed, etc., the simplest and most effective system for the average farmer is that which is recognized by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. The system adopted by this association is as follows:

(1) Choose carefully the variety to be used as foundation stock. To do this it is often advisable to test a few of the best recognized varieties in small plots side by side before making the final choice.

(2) Having decided upon the variety the next step is to set aside a special plot of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in size to be sown with the best possible seed of that variety.

(3) Just before harvesting the crop on this plot, a hand selection of seed from specially desirable

afford to ignore. Briefly speaking, these are as follows:—

(1) It enables him to keep in touch with his fellow worker, and thus to profit by the successes and failures of the latter. (2) It keeps him in close touch with the best thought of the times in all matters pertaining to crop raising. (3) It fixes approximate standards of registration for pure-bred seed. (4) It makes a careful study of the results obtained by the different members as well as by professional investigators, and offers direction and guidance accordingly. (5) It keeps the record of all work done along these lines by members, and issues certificates of registration. (6) It assists members as far as possible, in the disposal of their surplus stock of pure bred seed at reasonable prices. (7) It gives publicity to the work of worthy growers who have succeeded in producing stock of real merit.

Those who decide to follow the above system with a view to building up more profitable strains on their farms and who have already proven the suitability of the variety with which they are working, will simply require to make a selection from the general crop of that variety in the same way as though such crop were produced on the special plot.

It is to be hoped that many farmers will adopt the above plan of producing high-class seed for their own use at least if not for the trade. Those who contemplate doing so are advised to communicate direct with the Secretary, Canadian Seed Growers' Association, Canadian Building, Ottawa. Residents in Ontario are also advised to communicate with Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O. A. College, Guelph, who, as one of the directors of the Association and as Experimentalist at the College and Secretary of the Experimental Union will be able to give the prospective member much valuable advice.

Stave Silos Not to be Despised

"A cement silo is usually the best," said Mr. E. Hawthorne of Peterboro County as he conversed with an editorial representative of The Dairymen and Farming World recently. A cement silo, though, is a permanent affair and on this account, it might seriously inconvenience one should he wish to re-model his buildings at any time. In such a case, it might be badly in the way, besides, it is costly to build." Mr. Hawthorne has two stave silos which he has had for a number of years and they have given entire satisfaction. His first stave silo he built in 1896. Four years ago, it was necessary to move it. It required the services of four men for a day to move the structure. After 12 years of constant use, besides being moved, this silo is practically as good to-day as when first built.

This silo, and the other one which was built more recently, were put up at a very nominal cost. They are both 14 feet in diameter and 20 feet high. The material used was two-inch cedar plank, bevelled so as to make proper joints. The silage has always kept perfectly in these silos and on different occasions silage has been carried over the summer in them, coming out the next year just as good as the fresh material. Mr. Hawthorne said he would not recommend building a silo less than 30 feet high as there was proportionately more waste with the smaller silo. It was a simple matter to splice the planks and when properly bevelled at the joints, it made practically as good a job as if they were one piece. The silage from these silos was fed to grade shorthorn cattle, some of which were fed for beef, the others being milking cattle. Mr. Hawthorne assured us that he would not care to farm without these silos and was strongly of the opinion that it would pay anyone who went in for dairying to erect silos and have a supply of silage for winter feeding.



WAITING FOR THE RURAL CARRIER AND THE EXPECTED LETTER

The rural carriers deliver their mail at the different farm houses about the same time each day. Thus the people know when to expect them. The illustration was secured by our special representative while he was interviewing the farmers near Clifton Springs, New York, and shows Mrs. Roger Hancy of Clifton Springs, waiting for the carrier. Mrs. Hancy, like all others who were interviewed, is a firm believer in free rural delivery.

to hitch up and drive two and a half miles to the post office."

"Many years ago I used to have to pay 24c to mail a letter to California. Later the cost was reduced to 18c, now it is only 2c. Rural free delivery is only another step in the improvement of the postal service. Some people might claim that we cannot afford to send a letter to California for two cents, but we have found that we can. In the same way we have found that we can afford to deliver the mail to our farmers. Then, also, rural delivery makes farm life more enjoyable. We like to get the daily news every day just as well as any city man does."

When asked if the rural carriers ever took part in politics, Mr. Jones replied, "No, not now. They may have at one time, but that time has gone. You won't find a man in this section who is in favor of doing without free rural delivery."

"When you get free rural delivery in Canada," said Miss Jones, "your farmers should take care to buy the kind of boxes the government recommends. Some of our farmers do not do it and now the inspector has been through here

plants is to be taken in sufficient quantity to sow at least a $\frac{1}{2}$ acre plot the following year. In the case of wheat, oats and barley, about 60 pounds of heads should be chosen, and 30 pounds threshed out and cleaned for sowing the plot, the balance to be kept in reserve for use in case of crop failure.

This plot is given a special place on the farm each year and serves two distinct purposes, viz: (a) It affords a medium through which the strain may be built up in yield and quality and maintained in purity. (b) It furnishes an annual source of seed for the main crop since the balance of the plot is threshed and kept separate for this purpose after the hand selection has been made. On this smaller area such factors as productiveness, hardness, ability to resist disease, strength of straw, quality, and the purity of the strain, can be considered in a way which is absolutely impossible where the whole field or crop has to be taken into consideration.

While any grower may apply this system on his farm independent of the Association, yet there are certain advantages associated with an affiliation with this organization which few growers can