

offices and star routes that have been discontinued. They will be dealt with later.

LARGELY TRUE AT ONE TIME

The defects that it has been claimed exist in the Rural Delivery system of the United States, did exist to some extent at one time. During the first few years of the service, the applications for the establishment of new routes poured in on the Department in thousands. It was found to be impossible to make a thorough inspection of each of the desired routes. At that time the Department had not formulated its policy as to the conditions upon which the service would be started. Its machinery for enforcing such requirements as it did have was inadequate. The result was that hundreds of routes were established where they should not have been. The expense of the service on such routes was much greater than the benefits derived therefrom warranted.

CONDITIONS CHANGED

During the past few years, particularly the last two or three, conditions have changed. The Post Office Department has so perfected its machinery that it has been able to make a thorough

was several million dollars less than it was 10 years ago when the expenditures on free rural delivery amounted to about only \$80,000 a year. These facts are known to the people in the United States. It amuses them, therefore, when they hear the people in Canada advancing the same old arguments against free rural delivery that they heard and grew accustomed to when it was first proposed to extend rural delivery throughout the United States, and which time and experience have shown to have been for the most part, fallacious.—H. B. C.

Feeding Poultry

Wilbur Bennett, Peterboro' Co., Ont.

In the feeding of poultry much depends on the size of the flock kept, and what is desired, eggs, or stock. For egg production on a large scale, and with the minimum amount of labor, there is nothing better than dry, or hopper feeding. Few other systems will give more profit a bird, and keep the birds more hardy and vigorous.

My plan is to feed the whole grains such as

Crop Rotation

The value of a crop rotation to enrich the soil and cause it to give to the husbandman more bountiful crops is being realized as never before by the average farmer. No one system is adapted to all localities and conditions of agriculture. These matters have to be decided by the amount of moisture in the soil, the locality in which we live, the products we raise from the soil and other conditions peculiar to our situation. But it is now regarded by every intelligent farmer that we must have some system of rotation of crops if the fertility of the soil is to be husbanded and maintained. In fact in many cases it must first be restored. In the systems of farming in the past many so-called farmers have played the part of Soil-Robbers. They have been enriching their pockets at the expense of the soil, leaving to those who came after a soil which though once fertile and productive, has had removed its most valuable asset, FERTILITY. These men were called farmers.

THE SYSTEM AT "SPRINGBROOK"

The system of crop-rotation followed at "Spring Brook" has proven satisfactory after some years of trial. It has added fertility to the soil. The farm is more productive to-day than when the present owner took it in hand 16 years ago. Then it would hardly produce 30 bushels of oats or 1½ tons of hay an acre. Now it produces from 50 to 60 bushels of oats and barley, 2½ to 3 tons of hay, and large crops of corn (for ensilage) an acre. There 12 cows, 3 or 4 horses and a few young cattle and sheep were kept on 95 acres (12 acres of which was in bush.) Now the stock keeping power of the farm is nearly double what it was then.

Some years ago we adopted the 6 year system of rotation as follows—1st year, corn and hoe crop; 2nd year, wheat, oats or barley, with a seeding to clover and grass; 3rd year, clover; 4th year, mixed hay; 5th and 6th years, pasture. We are now adopting the four year system holding to only one year hay and one year pasture, believing it to be the ideal system of rotation, to keep the soil fertile and free from weeds.

WORKING THE SYSTEM

We prefer to manure pasture land, for corn during the months of June or July, the previous year. This gives us a good growth of grass in the months of August and September when the other pastures are dry and short. It gives us, also, a fine mould to plow down in October for corn the following season. The putting on of the manure at this season allows the weed seeds to germinate and either be eaten off by the cattle or plowed under before they come to maturity and thus are destroyed forever. On such land plowed in the fall and well tilled the next spring we have never failed to get a heavy crop of corn. This land is plowed up the next fall, sown to grain and seeded with 6 to 8 lbs Timothy, 3 lbs early and 3 lbs late red clover, 1 lb alsike and 1 lb red top. The reason I sow both the early and late red clovers is that the former gives an early red clover and the latter a late aftermath, giving a good supply of feed from early in August until well on in October. On soil handled in this way we get a fine crop of grain, an excellent crop of clover the following summer, a good cut of mixed hay the fourth year and pasturage the fifth and sixth years.

When grain is sown on the first plowing about 3 lbs. of early clover is sown with the grain to be plowed down in the fall if not required for feed.

The manure not required for the corn land is drawn direct from the stable and spread on the second crop meadow during the winter and spring, or when the snow is not too deep. The straw used for bedding is first cut thus; there is no long straw in the manure to rake up with the hay.—W. F. S.



A RURAL DELIVERY BOX IN FRONT OF THE HOME OF A NEW YORK STATE FARMER

Farmers in the United States who enjoy the benefits of free rural delivery are required to furnish their own boxes which must comply with the requirements of the post office department. Many different makes of boxes have been approved by the department. Any person who tampers with one of these boxes is liable to a heavy fine. The boxes must be placed beside the road and where the carrier can reach them without dismounting from his vehicle. This illustration was taken specially for The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World while our representative was investigating the free rural delivery service in the State of New York.

inspection of proposed routes almost as rapidly as the petitions for their establishment have been received. Thousands of these petitions have been refused. Hundreds of routes that were established in the early days of the service, as has been shown, have been discontinued, or re-arranged. Hundreds of others have been reduced from a daily service to a tri-weekly service.

In the early days of the service, the Post Office officials were apprehensive as to what the outcome of the service was going to be. Some of them at least were afraid that the expenses of the rural delivery system would prove so great it would ultimately have to be discontinued. Those doubts and fears are now a thing of the past. The Department now has the service under control. About five-sixths of the territory, suitable for rural delivery, now has the service. The number of yearly applications for new routes is several thousand less than it was a few years ago. The last two years has shown a marked decrease in the number of petitions received for the installation of the service. This has given the Post Office officials an opportunity to re-arrange the routes, and to improve and strengthen the whole service. As will be shown later, the deficit of the United States Post Office Department last year

wheat, corn, and buckwheat, in the litter, twice a day, after the birds have gone to roost, and at noon. This makes them take exercise, and keeps them out of mischief. About two quarts of grain to 50 hens at a feed, and a dry mash always before them, gives them all that they require.

Many different mixtures are given for this dry mash. One that I use with success, is the following:—200 pounds bran, 100 pounds corn-chop, 100 pounds low grade flour, 100 pounds gluten meal, the whole mixed well together, and kept in hoppers where the fowls can get at it at any time. They will not eat to excess of this kind of food, but are just as ready for their whole grain, and willing to scratch for it, as though they had had nothing since the last feed. I use a lot of green cut bone. Nothing tends more to make my poultry a success, than the meat food given in this form. I feed about ½ oz. a bird a day. Mangels and green clover form fine vegetable food and are relished by the fowls very highly. The supply of water and grit, should be abundant, and clean.

A ton of green manure is worth as much as a ton of rotted manure. It takes two tons of green manure to make one of rotted.—J. H. Grisdale.