This represents about half of the total cost of the service for that year.

In addition to increasing the pay of the carriers, provision has been made to give them vacations, and to pay for their substitutes. During the year 1907 the salaries paid to carriers who took the place of the regular carriers, while the latter were on their holidays, amounted to over $700,000.

These figures are interesting only in that they show that the great increase in the cost of the

The Bacon Hog
Those who rush in and out of hogs generally miss the best prices.

service has been due, not so much to the rapid extension of the service, as some people have endeavored to lead us to believe, as it has been caused by the increases in the salaries of the carriers. These increases have been made necessary by the increase in the cost of living that has taken place during the past few years.

ARE NOT ALARMED

There is not the slightest possibility that free rural delivery will ever be discontinued in the United States. Now that the rapid increase in the extension of the service has been checked, for the simple reason that the service is almost universal, neither the post office officials, the government, nor the people of the United States are in any way apprehensive as to the future or final cost of the service. When I asked Fourth Assistant Postmaster General De Graw if there was any possibility of the service ever being discontinued, he laughed, and said, "Discontinued! why? what we are wondering about now is when our farmers will commence to ask to have their mail delivered twice a day."—H. B. C.

Review of the Hog Situation

W. H. McNish, Lyn, Ont.

To advise farmers to go in more largely for the production of bacon hogs, in view of the present extremely low prices for live hogs, and the high prices for grains of all kinds, would seem idle. The existing conditions are altogether out of proportion. True, live hogs have been lower. The price of all food stuffs, however, has been higher this winter than at any time within my recollection, and probably within the recollection of most farmers in Canada. But these conditions will not always last. They will probably be reversed within the next twleve-month., It is always the case—as an observing man will acknowledge—that when grain is high in price, animals are low, and vice versa. "When everybody runs, you stand still." That applies particularly to the pig industry.

There is a strong feeling amongst farmers that they are not being dealt with fairly by the packers. Certainly the price of live hogs and the finished product is out of all proportion. Somebody is making a large profit. If the retail price of bacon was kept as low as was consistent with sound business principles, much more bacon would go into consumption in Canada. Canada is the market we must look to more in the future for the consumption of our bacon products. With the great influx of people into Canada our home market is bound to be of considerable importance to the Canadian producer of bacon hogs.

There is another point wherein we are not being treated fairly. The man who takes pains, and produces the proper class of hogs, does not get full value for them. If a proper discrimination were made between first-class and inferior hogs, nothing would do more to raise the standard of Canadian bacon.

If bacon hogs can be produced at a profit anywhere, Eastern Ontario is the place. In no other place are the natural conditions so ideal for hog production. It is not a grain growing district, it is not a beef raising district, it is not a fruit raising district. It is essentially a first-class dairy district. Outside of the hay, grain and fruit needed for local requirements, the energies of the Eastern Ontario farmers should be concentrated on the production of fine dairy produce, and its co-industry, bacon hogs . Neither one can be bought to the highest degree of success without the other. The dairy farmer must have the bacon pigs to turn into cash the unmarketable by-products of the dairy. The bacon producer must have the cheap food that the dairy byproducts gives him, to make his business profitable. The soil in Eastern Ontario is well adapted for dairying. We can produce a great variety of fodder crops. A well appointed farm can have an abundance of succulent food for both dairy cows and bacon hogs, each month of the year. Our soil is well suited to the production of pasture grass, which, after all, is our most important crop—though one most neglected. Again, we have an abundant supply of fresh water. It is possible with modern appliances, for every dairyman to have at little expense, running water before his cows at all times. We have climatic conditions that are most favorable. If we cannot have June conditions the year round ,we can have conditions favorable for a large milk supply. Besides, we have the people to carry on successfully these twin industries.

We need more enthusiasm, and more thinking along the proper lines. With this enthusiasm and more thinking would come better marketing facilities, co-operation, and, perhaps, co-operative packing houses. Why not? We have them for the manufacture of cheese and butter.

It has been said that the shortest cut to a man's heart is via his pocket book. If he goes into a venture that empties his pocket book, and does not replenish it, that venture will be dropped like a hot potato. On the other hand, if the venture is profitable, and continually adds to his pocketbook, he will stick to it. He will become enthusiastic.

It is conceded on good authority—and it has been my experience—that a bushel of corn will produce 10 lbs. of pork. On this basis 70 cents worth of corn (the ruling price) will produce 10 lbs. of pork. At 5 cents a lb., (the price in Toronto), this would be worth 50 cents. This means a loss of 20 cents in the transaction. But take a bushel of corn, and 100 lbs. of skim milk, and feed them together. The combined foods will produce 18 lbs. of pork. At 5 cents a pound this would bring 90 cents. Your investment on the bushel of corn therby is made profitable, and, in addition you have 20 cents a cwt. at home for your skim milk. Let us take another example: A combination of corn and barley at, say,1 cent a pound, is fed, (barley is equal to corn pound for pound.) Five hundred and sixty pounds of this mixture and 1000 pounds of skim milk, will produce a hog weighing 180 lbs. At 6 cents a lb. for pork, this is equal to $10.80. After paying for your mixed feed, you have 52 cents a cwt. for your skim milk.

Two years ago this winter, I fed 115 pigs. Feed was cheap. My feed (shorts and corn meal) cost me about $20 a ton. When the pigs were sold half of the money realized was clear profit. I considered it, therefore, a profitable business for the winter months. Last winter my experience was not so favorable. My pigs did not do so well. I lost quite a few from one cause and another. Upon inquiry I found that last winter was a very severe one on hogs, both in Canada and the States. This winter I have turned off 64. With very little milk, and the high prices for feed I will come out just about even. I will look for some profit, however from the four-acre field that I have treated with a good coat of pig manure, which is the very best fertilizer you can apply.

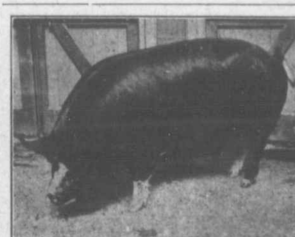
As to the comparative value of skim milk and whey, some say the latter when fed to the best advantage is quite as good as skim milk. I think that whey is only half as good as skim milk. We will figure on that basis in Eastern Ontario. Here we have half a million dairy cows. If the whey resulting from the manufacture of cheese here, was fed to the best advantage, it would be sufficient for one million pigs, or double what is produced at the present time. This would put five millions of dollars of cash in the pockets of the farmers of this section. It would greatly increase also the fertility of their farms.

With a first class type of bacon hog, pasture in summer, roots in winter, together with the by-products of the dairy, the outlook for the bacon producer is hopeful, even at the present time. With more care in selecting the correct type, and more intelligence in the handling and feeding of pigs, there is no reason why Canadian dairymen cannot clear double the amount on bacon that they are doing.

The Price of Hogs and Bacon

Mr. W. O. Sealey in addressing a meeting in Hamilton recently, made the following statement regarding the alleged combine among pork packers:

"Since the price of live hogs has fallen to 5c a lb. to the producer, the price of bacon has risen to the consumer to 20c a lb. and upwards. When the price of hogs was 7c a lb., the price of bacon to the consumer was as a rule only 17c a lb. This looks as if there was a most effective double-edged combine to unduly lower the price of the live hogs and increase the price of the finished product to the consumer. This combine is not among the producers on the one hand nor among the consumers on the other. It would seem to rest between the retail dealers and the packing houses. But as the former are too numerous to form a combine, the blame must rest upon the packers. The buyers for the packing houses get their instructions weekly what



An English Berkshire
One of the good ones produced in the Old Country.

to pay farmers for hogs, and location considered, prices are practically the same. On the other hand travellers representing the packing houses quote to retailers practically the same prices for the finished article. Upon the packing houses, therefore, rests the blame for the present anomaly in pork trade—low prices for live hogs and high prices for the cured product."