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WE ARE TO HAVE FREE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY

WHEN The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, last fall, sent its special representative to the United States to look into the question of free rural mail delivery it little thought that in less than a year the Canadian Government, would introduce the system in Canada. At that time Hon. Rodolph Lemieux, the Postmaster-general, informed our representative that he was opposed to the introduction of free rural mail delivery into Canada. He promised, however, to read with interest the articles on free rural mail delivery that we told him were to be published in The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World and stated that he was prepared to adopt suggestions from them whether it is the articles that we published in The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World or the approaching elections, or both, that have led Hon. Mr. Lemieux to change his mind it is interesting to learn that thousands of Canadian farmers are shortly to enjoy the benefits of free rural delivery.

In an address delivered recently at Niagara Falls, Ont., Hon. Mr. Lemieux announced that the mail drivers, who now carry the mail from railway centers to the small country post offices, are shortly to commence acting as rural mail carriers inasmuch as they will deliver mail to the farmers living along the roads they travel. Farmers living on side roads, not travelled by the mail carriers, will be allowed to place mail boxes at the junction of their side roads and the mail

roads. The mail carrier will then leave their mail in these boxes. This will save them the trouble of going longer distances to the post offices. The regulations under which this system is to be introduced will be announced shortly.

HON. MR. LEMIEUX'S ADDRESS

In the course of his remarks on this subject Hon. Mr. Lemieux, after explaining some of his former objections to the system said: "There is in store for Canada another great postal reform which is of particular interest to the farming community. I refer to that system known as the free rural mail delivery.

"This system, which is only an expansion of the letter delivery from the cities to the rural sections of the country, has been in vogue for a long time in Great Britain, France and Germany. Now, lately, it was adopted by the United States. I have stated in the House of Commons that it was not possible for Canada at the present time to assume a similar burden, and my statement was based on the well-known fact that the conditions which would warrant rural delivery were thick populations and large revenues. Such is the case with Great Britain, with a population of forty-four millions and an area of 120,000 square miles, i.e., about the size of Ontario, with 3 x times the population of the whole Dominion.

"In the United States there is an area no larger than that of Canada to be served, but there is a population of eighty-three millions as against six

here, and a postal revenue of one hundred and eighty-three millions against nine here.

"In other words with say an equal area, there is in the United States a population fourteen times as great as ours, and a revenue twenty times as great to bear the cost of the free rural mail delivery.

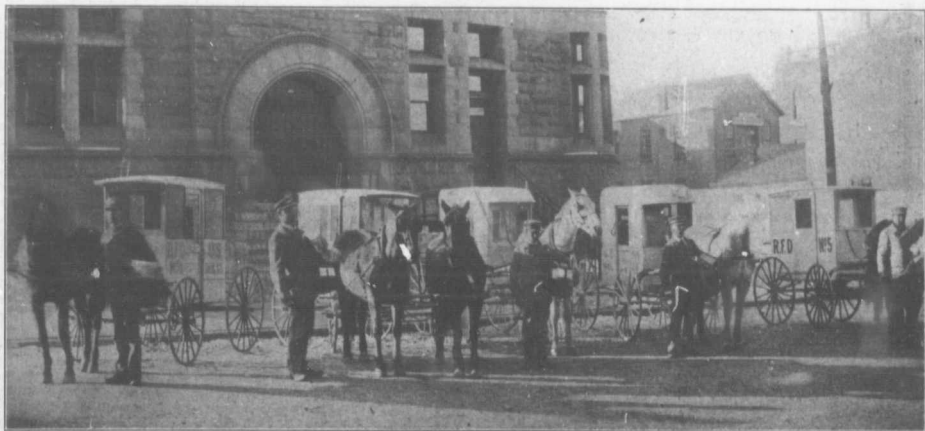
"Let it be remembered also that the United States only adopted the system when they had seventy million population and a postal revenue of over eighty millions.

A SPLENDID SYSTEM

"As I have often stated in Parliament, it is a splendid system, which I admire greatly, and which can be introduced step by step in Canada. For some two or three years, acting under my instructions, the officers of the department have been studying the main features of rural free delivery as operated in the United States, with a view to, if possible, the introduction of a scheme in accordance with our revenue, population and physical conditions.

"Towards that end the Post Office Department has evolved a scheme of rural free delivery and collection from the present system of stage routes, whereby the rural population of the country may be able to receive and post all ordinary mail matter at their doors, instead of having to drive from two to three miles to the nearest post office for that purpose.

"I have therefore determined with the consent of my colleagues, to equip all existing mail routes in Canada with rural delivery boxes, under reg-



Now that Free Rural Mail Delivery is to be introduced in Canada, Free Rural Mail Carriers are likely soon to become a familiar sight.

The special representative of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, who visited the United States last fall, to study the free rural mail delivery system, found that the cost of the service was not nearly as great as our Canadian farmers had been led to believe. On the other hand, the benefits of the service were so pronounced that the United States Government officials and farmers who were interviewed, all united in praising it. It was found that free rural delivery saved the farmers much time that was previously lost in going for their mail. It enabled farmers to take daily papers, and thereby made farm life more attractive. It increased the value of farms and added to the comfort of the people. The above illustration was secured by our representative while he was in the United States. It shows the mail carriers in a large town in one of the northern states, just as they were about to start out on their rounds. The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World is greatly pleased to learn that our Canadian farmers are shortly to enjoy a measure of free rural delivery. The latest announcement is that free rural mail delivery is an actuality. Mr. George Ross, Chief Superintendent of Post Offices, is at present laying out a route in Wentworth Co., Ont. It is expected that before the end of October 100 routes will be in operation. Parcels post will come next.