

jury to the land for one season at least. By making use of the modern manure spreader, light applications can be made and in this way, there need be no loss from the old time heavy application.

The expensive work made necessary in cleaning up the yard represents a dead loss. When the work is all left to be done at one time, it cannot be done economically. If the manure is drawn out as fast as it is produced, it eliminates the expensive fall and spring jobs. When removed in this manner, spare time is largely made use of and the expense is practically nil. Besides, the fertility is got upon the land, where it will do the most good, before it has an opportunity to deteriorate.

Another loss which is frequently overlooked is the injury which a manure pile does to the buildings and to the stock. When manure is allowed to accumulate around the barn doors, it causes filthy surroundings, and makes it impossible to keep clean cows and produce pure milk. If allowed to remain in box stalls or stables for any length of time, it has a very injurious action upon the health of the animals as well as rotting off the posts which support the barn. The only rational way of overcoming these evils is to haul the manure out to the land as soon as possible after it is made.

The Rural Telephone

Greatest changes have been wrought in rural life within the past ten years. In these the extension of the telephone to rural communities has played no small part. Towns and cities witnessed the advent of the telephone 20 years ago, and now the business of a city or town would practically be demoralized without it. Its benefits in rural districts are equally as great, if not greater.

The telephone for country life is rapidly becoming a necessity. It brings the town and country closer together. It tends to shorten the distance between country homes. It tends to overcome many of the difficulties and inconveniences, consequent on lack of quick connection, that hitherto confronted the farmer. The doctor, the butcher, the merchant during any stress of circumstance can be brought near and communicated with in a few moments. The farmer is brought in close touch with his brother farmers and with the market when he can obtain prices, and thus save many dollars through his knowing when to market his produce to best advantage.

Evidently the telephone is of inestimable benefit to farmers, and its value must increase in proportion to the extension or rural systems. Unfortunately this extension in Canada has not been as great as its advantages would warrant. This is due largely to the fact that one single telephone company has secured such a foothold all over the country as to become practically a monopoly, and it is unwilling, unless compelled by opposing lines, to meet the necessities of the locality either in rates or any other way.

The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was organized twenty-eight years ago. Since that time, the corporation has expended about \$10,000,000 in telephone development in the Dominion. So great has been the development of the company, it being the only one for 10 or 15 years after its inauguration in Canada, that it is for some years controlled the whole telephone business.

The principal development of the system, has been in the urban districts and consequently it has been of very little use to the more sparsely settled rural communities. Towns and cities are thickly populated. Many interests are intermingled and

telephone communication between these is almost necessary. Phones could be installed in almost every house at comparatively little expense and a good revenue would be forthcoming. In the country, on the other hand, especially in some districts where houses were few and far between, the cost of installing a system would be comparatively large. To overcome this expense, the company increased their rates of installation in many cases to such an extent as to make the removal of the average farmer. This, they could do owing to their monopolization of telephone systems, and, as a result, the development of the rural telephone system in the Dominion until recent years has been slow.

Realizing the advantages prevailing in regard to these matters, a number of independent telephone associations were organized in Canada about three years ago. The organization of these systems was bitterly assailed by the Bell Telephone Co., they feeling that the interest of the company was damaged. Nevertheless, the development of these systems went on and has resulted in great benefit to the rural communities, where they have been established. As an instance of the development of the independent rural telephone system, it might be stated that after 17 years of Bell Telephone monopoly in the United States only 300,000 phones were in existence. The independent movement began in the United States 10 or 12 years ago, and in that time, the number of telephones on the continent has increased to 7,000,000, of which the independent companies own more than half.

Three hundred million dollars have been invested in the independent services in the United States in the last 12 years and this is being increased all the time. The Bell company has until recently, practically despised the tiller of the soil. By so doing, it has jeopardized its interest to such an extent that the farmer is satisfied to do without it, he preferring to have his own system.

One of the chief obstacles in the way of the general development of the independent system is the delivering of long distance messages. Most of the independent companies that have been established are purely local, and here the Bell Telephone secures a triumph by coming along and offering long distance connection where the independent system has been installed, for a comparatively small sum. It must be understood, however, that about 97 per cent. of the telephone messages of the country are probably local messages. Consequently, many non-subscribers rather than connect their systems with the Bell, are satisfied to pay 25 or 50 cents for sending long distance messages over Bell lines.

It is clearly evident that the independent system is the most serviceable for the rural classes, especially when it is considered that the Bell telephone is a company with a capitalization of several million dollars, whereas the independent system is conducted in the interests of the farmer and with no conglomeration of capital. One of the great advantages derived through the inauguration of this system is the competition which it has inspired, resulting in a perfection and extension of the Bell system in rural communities. There are now in the United States about 7,000 of these independent companies, some of which control as many as 40,000 phones. The greater the extension of the system through Canada, the greater will be the benefits forthcoming.

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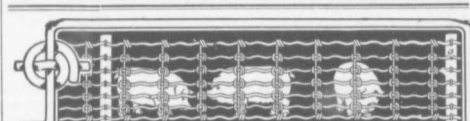
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