

business may not seem at first sight to have any reference to rural delivery the fact is that the result of bestowing them and other distinctions upon men who are already, in most all cases, overstocked with luxuries, and frequently with vanity, is to lower in the social scale and in other ways, and consequently their influence, the people who are in the rear and who are really the bone and sinew of the country, and thereby take out of their hands the weapon that would enable them to procure for themselves a fair share of those things that tend to make a happy and prosperous community. The city man should be as fast for this as anyone. When he sends off his paper, letter or parcel into the country he knows that it will not be hanging around a country post office for a week or more before reaching its destination; he can calculate to a few minutes as to when it will be in the hands of the person to whom he sends it. The farmer is too busy a man these farm-help famine times to run off two or three miles to a post office. He has too much of this "getting there" for that around home. If he should let up on "getting there" for just a few short months the treasury building at Ottawa and the towns and cities of this country would be desolate and forsaken as the ruins of Karnac or the derelict on the wide ocean. The telephone is, I fully realize, a thing to be reckoned with in considering the question of rural delivery, but, after all, it can never carry the newspaper, magazine, nor parcels, nor all the messages which will still go through the country in the form of letters, all of which is sure to increase in volume as time goes on. Let us make a determined demand for rural delivery, and this old obsolete mail system we now have in Canada will soon be a thing of the past.

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Mr. Wilcox's letter in this issue is well worth reading. It is not necessary to agree with everything he says—there is a reference to the Reform party, for instance, which it is difficult to understand in the light of what the present Government has done to afford the rural population relief from the burdens of tariff taxation—but the main thought and purpose of the letter is worthy of consideration apart from minor details.