

the value of your property, to say nothing of the benefits you will reap from them. They may also act as a loadstone to hold that boy on the farm, who otherwise might perhaps imagine that almost any other place was more attractive than home. It is often said by some when they see fine shrubs and hedges, "If only I could have some like those." Whose fault is it? Their own. If you would have them on your place, start now. Once you have them started, they will require little attention.

His Corn Acclimatized

W. L. Davidson, Shefford Co., Ont.

My experience in corn growing has been with the Western Beauty variety. I have selected the early ears in the field for the last four years. As a result of my selection, I find that I have to-day a variety that will mature fully ten days earlier than when I first had it. I am firmly convinced that other varieties can be acclimatized and made to mature several days earlier by following out this scheme of selecting early ears. Seed corn for growing either grain or corn for the silo should be produced in or near the locality where it is to be grown.

My usual method of cultivation is to plow early in the autumn, selecting pasture or clover sod that has been manured during the winter or spring. As early in the spring as the land will permit, I go on it with a disc harrow, followed with a smoothing harrow. When the land is sufficiently warm and dry, I give it a good harrowing to kill weeds that have sprouted and at the same time to make a fine seed bed.

My seed corn is always selected from a seed plot. I select two ears as uniform as possible from the best rows in the plot. Each row is planted with the grain from a single ear. The rows are three and one-half feet apart, each way. Thus a seed plot of one-quarter acre contains 1,000 hills, each hill having four stalks. I plant the seed plot with the hoe, planting four kernels taken from the middle of an ear, in a hill, last year each hill yielded me an average of seven pounds of seed, with five good ears weighing five pounds when husked.

TILLAGE DURING GROWTH

As soon as the corn shows growth, we run a one-horse cultivator between the rows as deeply as possible. We follow this with a weeder in a day or two if the weather is favorable. When the corn is five or six inches high, we pass the weeder over it again, followed with the hoe, to uncover any hills that may have become covered and to cut out any weeds that may be left. If this is thoroughly done, there will be no more need for hoeing. The cultivator will do the rest. The cultivator must be kept going once a week if the weather will permit till the corn begins to tassel.

We remove all suckers and detassel all inferior or blank stalks in our seed plot, thus allowing only the best to furnish us with seed for our next year's crop.

When planting for ensilage we use the corn planter in rows three and one-half feet apart with the hills two feet apart in the rows, planting four or five kernels to the hill. We follow the same cultivation with our silage corn as we do for the seed plot.—W. L. Davidson, Shefford Co., Que.

We think The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World is both interesting and instructive. We have taken it since its origin and see a great improvement in it.—A. Smith, Enfield, Ont.

If every farmer would adopt some system of seed selection, as outlined, sow only the choicest seed, test it thoroughly before seed time, put it in the soil as early as possible, having the soil in the best possible condition to receive it, our average crop production an acre would be increased from 15 to 25 per cent.—W. F. S.

FAVORABLE OPINIONS REGARDING RURAL FREE DELIVERY

The Sixteenth of a Series of Articles Written by an Editorial Representative of this Paper, who Recently Visited the United States, with the Object of Studying the Free Rural Mail Delivery System.

OUR Postmaster-General, our Dominion Minister of Agriculture, and other members of our Canadian Government, hold up their hands in horror at the thought of our introducing free rural delivery in Canada. They declare that it has been a failure in the United States. On the other hand the leading Government officials of the United States, from President Roosevelt down, are even more emphatic in their claims that the service is a complete success. They are surprised that we have not introduced it in Canada before this.

There must be a reason for this difference of opinion. What is it? It is because our Government officials look at the question purely from a financial standpoint. Because they are convinced that the direct returns from rural delivery will not pay the direct cost, they say that we should not have rural delivery. In the United States the Government officials, while not forgetting the financial considerations, look also at the indirect benefits, as represented by a much more complete service, the increased postal revenue, the saving in time effected by the farmers through not having to go for their mail, the increased value of farm lands, and the added comforts of farm life.

If rural free delivery has proved a failure in the United States, why is it that every Postmaster-General in the United States during the past eight years, has been outspoken in pro-

Meyer, in Washington, he was just leaving the city, and had little time in which to talk. He gave me, however, an extract from a speech he had made in Boston in October last, and said that it showed what he thought of rural delivery. This extract reads as follows:

"The history of rural delivery is an interesting one, and should be understood by our people, for the reason that there is a feeling prevalent in many parts of the country that this service is an extravagance, and an unnecessary drain upon the Department. However, let us look at the results accomplished in the last ten years: The first rural route was established in the fall of 1896. Fifteen thousand dollars were expended during that fiscal year, the postal deficit being \$11,500,000. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907, the expenditures for rural delivery were \$27,000,000, and the estimated postal deficit showed a decrease, as compared with 1897, of about four and one-half million dollars, the total being about \$7,000,000. This is an undoubted evidence to my mind, that while the expense incurred in connection with rural delivery is enormous, yet it has increased the receipts, and the benefits to our people can not be measured in dollars and cents. The isolation which existed in many parts of the country has been overcome; the people are in daily communication with their friends in the rest of the world; the daily papers and magazines come to the door of every farm house on the rural routes, and enlightenment and information are being spread broadcast throughout the land. Medical men have said that already the establishment of the rural service is having its effect upon the mentality of our country patrons, and that because of it, insanity is on the decrease."

In still another statement by Mr. Meyer, made public last summer, he said that he had started an investigation to find the reason for the United States postal deficit last year, as a result of which he had convinced himself that it was not due to free rural delivery, but rather the reverse.

EFFICIENCY MOST IMPORTANT

In 1906, the Postmaster-General was George B. Cortelyou. In his report for that year, Mr. Cortelyou said: "While it would be a gratifying circumstance if the Post Office Department were self-sustaining, I am less concerned about the deficit than about efficiency of administration. The public demand for postal facilities is constantly growing. If the installation of the rural service had depended upon the existence of a surplus in the postal revenues under the existing system of accounting, that service could not have been given. The same considerations apply to a number of other branches. The financial returns are so interwoven with and dependent upon others that there is much force in the contention that it is unreasonable to charge any one of them with the responsibility for the deficits."

MR. DE GRAW'S VIEWS

While in Washington I had a long interview with Fourth Assistant Postmaster General, P. V. DeGraw, who has direct charge of the rural delivery service. In reply to my question, Mr. DeGraw spoke in part as follows:

"When the first \$10,000 was appropriated to (Continued on Page 10.)



Fourth Assistant Postmaster General P. V. DeGraw.

Mr. DeGraw has direct charge of the rural delivery service throughout the United States, and is a firm believer in it as will be seen by the interview with him published in this issue. Mr. DeGraw, having been engaged in journalistic work for many years, gave the representative of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World a cordial reception when he called on him to obtain his views regarding free rural delivery.

nouncing it a success? Why is it a difficult matter to find a person in the United States, of any considerable prominence, whether he is in or out of politics, who is not a strong advocate of the rural delivery service? Although I interviewed a large number of people in all ranks of life, and living in several states, including farmers, rural carriers, editors of papers, and Government officials, not one was found who did not say that free rural delivery had been worth all that it had cost.—Let us see what they say.

POSTMASTER-GENERAL MEYERS VIEWS

When I called to see Postmaster-General

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