

I have had very good results from feeding ground wheat screenings to both the sow and her litter. Shorts and ground oats are very satisfactory. As soon as the pigs are old enough, I feed them a little skim milk in a separate trough adding a little shorts or chop as they become older.

Rural Telephone Lines Growing in Favor

The rapid growth of rural telephone lines in Ontario, and, in fact, in Canada, is the best evidence of the increasing popularity of this useful adjunct of farm life. Recently a rural telephone service was established in the township of Rochester, in Essex County, Ont. This system follows the road for 20 miles, passing through the Township of Rochester, Maidstone and Tilbury West. On this line there are 72 telephones in operation, and already the town council has received petitions for 30 more telephones. Although the service has been in use for only a short time, it has been installed long enough for the subscribers to express themselves as highly pleased with the results.

THE COST OF THE SERVICE

From a very careful detailed account kept during the cost of installation, it was found that the cost of the telephone to each subscriber was a trifle under \$40. Allowing 10 years in which to pay this amount, the interest on the unpaid principal, at three per cent, would amount to \$1.20 each year. Then, the cost of operating the exchange which, by arrangements made, amounts to \$1, thus making a total yearly outlay of \$6.20 each year for 10 years.

The advantage of local telephone lines is that they are owned and operated by the community, and not by corporations, whose object is the making of a profit. Every subscriber is directly interested in the successful operation of the line, and thus matters requiring attention are important to every subscriber.

WHY THEY ARE VALUABLE

Space here is too limited to enumerate the many uses to which the telephone may be put. It is useful for getting into immediate communication with your nearest neighbors, or those living 5 or 10 miles distant. It can also be used to speak with villages, towns, and cities several hundred miles away, for summoning a doctor in case of sickness, for calling aid in the event of fire or burglaries, for learning the news of the community, and many other purposes. Wherever reliable telephones have been installed in rural communities, they have paid for their cost, in many cases, in less than a month. Statements that have been made to us show that they have been found so useful that farmers would not part with them for almost any price, if they could not be duplicated.

GET A GOOD SERVICE

Any of our readers who are planning to install a telephone service, should receive positive assurance beforehand that the telephones they install are absolutely reliable. An unsatisfactory service is most annoying. A telephone to do good work, must convey the sound of the human voice in a clear, distinct manner; it must be made of the best material; it must be so constructed that it will stand for years, without the service being affected in any way. There are many apparently good telephones, which look all right when they are first installed, but which, after four or five months' use, become almost useless. Upon the proper selection of the telephone depends its usefulness and reliability. See that the telephone installed in your community is the best on the market. Even if it costs a trifle more than a cheaper make, the satisfaction that you will experience will more than compensate for the difference in cost.

WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY ABOUT FREE RURAL DELIVERY

The Fifth of a Series of Articles Written for The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World, by an Editorial Representative of this Paper, who Recently Visited the United States, with the Object of Studying the Free Rural Mail Delivery System.

NOTHING the United States Government has done for the farmers, has been as universally approved as the introduction of free rural delivery. People living in cities and towns, including some of our Canadian post office officials, do not appear to realize that our present system of mail distribution, in country districts, imposes a heavy tax on our farmers. This tax is not one that can be figured out in dollars and cents. The burden it imposes is none the less great.

It is paid by our farmers through the time they lose and the trouble they are put to when they have to walk, drive, or send for their mail. Many of our farmers have to drive three or four miles for their mail or do without it for days at a time. When they do without, they are taxed another way; that is, by being kept out of touch with the news of the country side and of the world and by the losses they sustain through not being informed in regard to the latest market quotations. Sometimes this tax is a heavy one.

Until free rural mail delivery was introduced the farmers of the United States were taxed in the same manner that our Canadian farmers are now. The advent of free rural delivery changed everything. It was not until some of them began to have their mail delivered at their doors daily, that they realized the benefits they derived through receiving the daily paper. They then understood how great was the tax they had been paying.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT

When free rural delivery was first started, the United States Government announced that the service was being tried only as an experiment. After the service had been tested for two years, the Postmaster General sent a circular letter to farmers and to each postmaster from whose office a rural free delivery service had been established. The postmasters were asked what were the sentiments of the people in regard to the benefits of the service, if the mail matter handled by the carriers had increased and for other similar information. The letters received showed that the farmers were practically a unit in endorsing the service.

The following extracts were taken from only a few of the letters received at that time. With two exceptions, the letters are from people living in northern states adjoining the Canadian boundary, where the conditions prevailing are closely similar to those we have in Canada.

MAINE

Gorham, Me.

"I cannot find words to express my appreciation of free delivery. It is something I always wanted, but never expected. There is more mail comes on this route than would come on the old system, especially daily papers. I cannot see why it could not be extended and still pay."

P. I. Libby.

North Deering, Cumberland Co., Me.

"The people are very much pleased to have the mail brought to them, and desire its continuance. The amount of mail has increased since the start as follows: July, 1907, 1,436; August, 1,628 pieces. July, 1908, 1,770; August, 1866 pieces. There has been an increase in the delivery of newspapers."

Mrs. Hannah D. Cobb, Postmaster.

Highfields Poultry Farm, West Falmouth, Me.

"I have found the rural free delivery service very beneficial, and in fact I do not see how we ever got along without it. I think that there would be fewer abandoned farms if the rural delivery

were extended, as it brings city ways to the farmers and lessens the desire to leave the farm. I would strongly advocate that the money appropriated by Congress for the free seed distribution should be used toward the support of the rural free delivery. Our mail delivery has been very satisfactory, and our carrier has been very obliging."

Chas. G. Purington.

ARIZONA

Tempe, Ariz.

"Rural free delivery changes the entire environment of farm life. The great question ever since the close of the civil war has been, what can be done to keep our boys on the farm? City life seems to draw them. Early in the day we receive the 'daily' and the news from all parts of the world, and five or six times as much reading matter as is wanted. The result is, the young people have something to look forward to when the postman comes in sight and are contented with home or farm life. More rural delivery all over the land is the thing to preach from the house-tops."

Henry C. Yaeger.

CALIFORNIA

Post-office, Los Gatos, Santa Clara Co., Cal.

"I have made five trips with the carrier over the route just established and found there were 167 families, and a few more on the side roads, that are going to put boxes on the main roads. All are not having their mail delivered as yet, as they are waiting to get suitable boxes. Went to see Mr. Dexter about going across his place to get to the Quilo road. Found him very much pleased with the idea of the delivery, and he went to work and put his road in good condition, as did also his neighbors, so we have good roads all over the route, and the carriers can get over it all in three and one-half hours."

W. C. Campbell, Postmaster.

MICHIGAN

Climax, Kalamazoo Co., Mich.

"I would much rather give \$5 out of my own pocket each year than to have rural delivery discontinued, as I cannot afford to travel five miles and back every day to keep posted on the markets and news of the day. I have talked with many since your letter came to hand, and they say that, having got a taste of a good thing, they would be lost without it."

Albert J. Harding.

Ridgeway, Lenawee County, Mich.

"The sentiments of the patrons reached by the rural free delivery from this office, are that it is a perfect success, and all desire that it be continued permanently. The mail matter handled increased very much. The service on this route did not commence until May 2, 1898. The aggregate number of pieces delivered and collected from May 2, until June 30, inclusive, was 6,967. The aggregate number of pieces collected and delivered for the months of July and August was 8,402. The increase in newspapers has been large. The patrons availed themselves of the opportunity to have the carrier carry express packages. The merchants here send many packages by the carrier; also the Western Union envelopes, and all seem pleased that they have the chance of such good service."

C. W. Culbertson Postmaster.

Ridgeway, Mich.

"It meets with the greatest favor from everyone along the route. Many, like myself, were