

Pacific Railway. In following issues, will be published illustrations and descriptions of the prize winning farms.

THEY HELPED

The competition last year would not have been possible but for the assistance given The Canadian Dairymen in the matter of the prize list. The following contributions were received:

Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association.....	\$50
D. Laval Separator Company.....	25
Empire Separator Company.....	25
Sharples Separator Company.....	25
Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Company.....	25
Gould, Shapley & Muir.....	15
Whitton Drummond Company, Ltd., Toronto.....	10
Alex. McCowan, M.L.A., Ellesmere.....	5
Hon. Thos. Crawford, M.L.A., Toronto.....	5

\$195

Unless one or two other public spirited firms or gentlemen assist by sending contributions, the balance of the prize list will be borne by The Canadian Dairymen and Farming World, which already has paid the general expenses of the competition, including those of the judges.

It is hoped that the success of this competition will make it possible to hold a provincial competition this year open to farmers all over Ontario. Both the Eastern and Western Ontario Dairymen's Associations have endorsed this suggestion. Further mention of this matter will be made later.

The Value of Rural Telephones

Sam Suddaby, Victoria Co., Ont.

The telephone is a most wonderful and one of the most helpful inventions that we have. Its usefulness has only begun to be appreciated. Up to a few years ago, the telephone was looked upon as a convenience, confined to urban communities. Towns or villages without telephones were considered behind the times. While it is a very great convenience in towns, it is a real necessity in the country.

If one wants to communicate with another in the same town it is only a short distance to go and see him; the roads are never blocked with snow, he can easily get here. It is far different with the more widely separated country residents. For many years the town people have enjoyed the advantages of telephone communications; such has been denied the residents of country districts. Why? Simply because the telephone business was in the hands of one big company that was making all kinds of money out of it and would not extend its lines into the country, because they would not see a chance of making three dollars for every one expended, consequently until the rural communities began organizing independent companies, telephones were found only in the towns.

Since the independent movement has started, rural telephones have made rapid progress. When the farmers once begin to realize how easily they may secure telephones, and of how great benefit they are to them, the progress that has been made will be insignificant in comparison with what will be the case. It costs considerable to get a telephone system installed, that is of much use, but if all assist, the cost to each is little and the benefits great.

I could not begin to enumerate the benefits to a sparsely settled rural community that are to be derived from telephone connections, between residents and with the village or market town. One thing that will occur to the mind of everyone, is the fact that there are times when a life may be saved by having instant means of communicating with a doctor.

The Company with which I am associated is a stock company. The shares are \$10 each. We have 13 miles of line in operation which are

giving good service. There are other ways of securing a telephone system, perhaps just as good, but if the people will get into the business having in view the benefits they are going to get out of it, rather than the idea of making or paying dividends, they can have telephone service at small cost, and good service as well.

We purchased our phones from the Canadian Independent Telephone Company of Toronto. There are a number of other manufacturing companies supplying the Independents. All of these will give good service and any of them will give valuable assistance in getting up companies for the purpose of installing rural telephone lines.

IS THE RURAL MAIL DELIVERY RUN BY THE POLITICIANS?

The Third of a Series of Articles Written for The Canadian Dairymen 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.

ONE of the objections that has been raised against the introduction of free rural delivery in Canada is the claim that the service in the United States is run by the politicians. It has been stated by a leading official of the Canadian post office department and it is believed more or less generally, that the rural mail carriers and inspectors are political appointees; that the routes are laid out to suit politicians; that it is little more than an immense political machine started by the politicians to catch votes among the farmers.

Were investigation to prove the foregoing charges to be true, and were it to seem likely that the evils referred to would spring up in Canada, were free rural delivery to be introduced here, there are few Canadians who would be willing to pay such a price.

Realizing the seriousness of the charges, the editorial representative of The Canadian Dairy-

HOW IT STARTED

The rural delivery was started twelve years ago by A. W. Machen, who later became general superintendent of the free delivery system. Mr. Machen has since left the service, but his former stenographer is still in the employ of the Department. "I well remember," she said when interviewed, "the day that Mr. Machen threw a letter over to me and announced that he proposed making an experiment with free rural mail delivery. No one in the department had any idea that the service would prove so popular or that it would grow in the way it has."

AN EXPERIMENT AT FIRST

During the first two or three years of the rural delivery service it was more or less of an experiment. Neither Congress or the Post Office Department laid down any hard or fast rules as to how the service was to be conducted. The result



The illustration shows a group of farmers at Delphi, Indiana, after receiving their mail boxes upon the start of a Free Rural Mail Delivery Route in their section. No wonder they look pleased.

man and Farming World made careful enquiries on this point. Government officials, postmasters, rural carriers and farmers, on both sides of politics, and living in several states, were interviewed. Not one was found who claimed that politics had anything to do with the service. Many laughed at the suggestion. Some even said that they had never heard such a thing hinted at.

POLITICS IN IT AT FIRST

During the first six years of the service, political considerations did have more or less influence in its management. During the last six years, or since February 1, 1902, the appointment of the rural carriers and other officials, has been under the control of the United States Civil Service Commission. Since February 1, 1904, the commission has adopted rules governing the appointment of rural carriers that have made it impossible for the politicians to have anything to do with the selection of the carriers.

was that at first the politicians did have considerable say in its management. After the first few rural delivery routes had been started, applications for the establishment of additional routes began to pour in on the Department. The number of these applications was so great the Department did not have the staff, or the necessary organization, with which to handle them. A rule was finally adopted by which it was made necessary that all applications for the establishment of a rural delivery route should bear the endorsement of the member of Congress or the Senate, irrespective of party, for the district before they would be considered by the Post Office Department. The members were consulted also in regard to the rural mail carriers.

This system was followed for several years. While no person was found who would say so, it is altogether likely that Republican members of Congress used to have more influence than the Democratic members in deciding which routes