

two or three years, acting under my instructions, the officers of the department have been studying the main features of rural free delivery as operated in the United States, with a view to the possible introduction of a scheme in accordance with our revenue, population and physical conditions."

THE SYSTEM EVOLVED.

"Towards that end the Post Office Department has evolved a scheme of rural free delivery and collection from the present system of stage routes, whereby the rural population of the country may be able to receive and post all ordinary mail matter at their doors, instead of having to drive from two to three miles to the nearest post office for that purpose."

"I have therefore determined, with the consent of my colleagues, to equip all existing mail routes in Canada with rural delivery boxes, under regulations to be published and enforced shortly. At the junction of every communication line with the main road the people will also be given the privilege of having boxes located for the receipt and collection of their mail, as desired."

"The department has made all arrangements for the carrying out of the scheme, and will at once proceed to inaugurate it. This system of rural mail delivery can be introduced at a cost which the country can afford to pay. It will evolve and expand gradually, with the growth and development of Canada, and at a ratio of cost that will not prove burdensome. It is, on the whole, a great postal reform which will be hailed with delight by the Farmers of Canada."

The Cattle Embargo.

The Conservatives tried during the last Session, to make cheap political capital out of the Embargo against Canadian cattle exported to Great Britain. The electors of Canada will be interested in knowing what are the facts in regard to this question and to what extent preceding administrations were responsible for a state of things that all patriotic Canadians deplore. We shall first briefly review facts.

The Embargo on Canadian cattle was imposed under the provisions of the "Animals' Order of 1892," by the Board of Agriculture, on the ground that Canadian cattle were affected with pleuro-pneumonia. Thereafter Canadian cattle had to be slaughtered within ten days after arrival at a British port and were subjected to inspection at the time of landing.

This was a death blow to the Canadian stocker trade, which consisted in shipping unfinished cattle to be held in England for feeding and fattening there.

This Embargo was, by Act of the British Parliament, in 1896, made statutory and has been persistently maintained in spite of the protests of the Canadian Government, the Scotch and English feeders and many other agricultural bodies in the Old Country.

However, in view of the freedom of Canadian herds from disease, in 1898, the present Minister of Agriculture, The Honourable Sydney Fisher, went to England and interviewed the Right Honourable Mr. Hanbury, then President of the Board of Agriculture, to try through discussion to arrive at some basis for action looking to the repeal of the Act of 1896. Mr. Hanbury, while recognizing as well founded the statement of the Canadian Minister that Canadian herds had been and then were free from disease, and that the Veterinary organization for stamping out disease in Canada and a protection against its introduction from outside—was satisfactory, still gave no encouragement that any change was feasible or even possible.