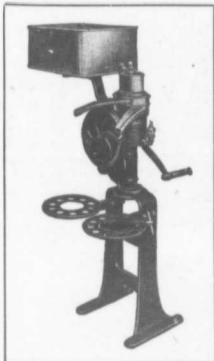


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[Rural Free Delivery Question

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World—I was very pleased to see the amalgamation of The Canadian Dairyman and The Farming World celebrated (as it were) by such a seasonable topic, from the farmer's point of view, as rural free mail delivery. This is a live subject and worthy the careful consideration of every farmer and every politician as well whose aim it is to uplift mankind. Large amounts of money are spent to educate the people. Why not spend some along this line? We are told that about 70 per cent. of the Government tax comes from the farm. What do we get in return for it?

In most cities the mail is carried twice daily to each door direct. The farmer has to drive several miles for his mail or go without. Apart from the great educational feature that is bound to spread with rural free mail delivery, my conviction is that the increase in postal revenue would go a long way to meet the increased outlay. Along with the local telephone systems that are fast spreading throughout the Dominion it would largely solve the problem of keeping the boys and girls on the farm. Too many farmers will hold up their hands in awe at the great expense that it would entail, but they are the farmers who do not realize the large amounts that are being spent by the Government through other channels that are of no benefit to the farmer. If the farmers would make rural free mail delivery their platform instead of party politics, we would soon have rural free mail delivery.—R. H. Harding, Ont.

The New Combined Paper Much Appreciated

That the step taken by combining The Canadian Dairyman and the Farming World as one publication is meeting with the general approval of the readers of both papers is apparent from the letters which we are receiving daily. Readers of The Canadian Dairyman are finding that the new household, poultry and horticultural departments are just what they have been waiting for, and are not slow in letting us know that they appreciate the change which has been made. Those who have been taking The Farming World find that whereas formerly they received their paper only twice a month, or 24 copies of the paper a year, they now get a copy every week or 52 copies in a year. They are thus able to keep in touch with the market quotations, which is something every farmer is greatly interested in. This is something they could not do with a semi-monthly publication. Our articles on free rural delivery are being followed with great interest. Read what some of our friends have to say regarding the change:

"Have just received the first copy of the new paper. You certainly do serve credit."—W. J. Stevenson, Oshawa, Ont.

"I have been a subscriber to the Farming World for some time. I am well pleased with the new combined paper, and wish you every success.—W. E. Thompson, Woodstock, Ont.

"I admire the paper very much, and am glad that it is now a weekly paper instead of a semi-monthly. I believe that it will be thus of much more benefit to farmers than formerly.—Arthur Fuller, Earleton, Ont.

"I have been a subscriber to The Farming World for some time. I think the change in the paper a good one, and wish you every success.—Robt. J. Manery, Chesley, Ont.

"A copy of the new combined paper arrived to-day. I may say that I am very well pleased with its first appearance.—Colin F. MacAdam, Antigonish, N. S.

The above are a few of the many letters we are receiving constantly

If you like the new combined paper, write and tell us so and give us some suggestions for improvement. We appreciate letters like the foregoing.

\$533,263 for Agriculture?

Out of total estimates brought down in the Ontario Legislature recently, of \$7,501,575.67, which will probably be increased by several hundred thousand dollars more, when the supplementary estimates are passed, agriculture gets \$533,263, in a direct grant, as compared with \$507,453 a year ago.

The amounts for the chief branches of agriculture are as follows for 1907 and 1908:

1907	1908
Agr. and Hort. Societies.....	\$102,092 \$107,837
The Live Stock Branch.....	25,262 25,900
Farmers and Women's Inst.....	27,816 29,772
Bureau of Industries.....	5,500 5,500
Swinekeeping.....	45,500 45,500
Fruit, Vegetables etc.....	40,252 38,500
Miscellaneous.....	30,500 49,750
Ontario Agricultural College.....	
Salaries and Expenses.....	108,375 117,450
Macdonald Institute.....	2,356 23,900
Forestry.....	4,000 4,500
Animal Husbandry and Farming and Exper. Feeding.....	20,610 20,250
Field Experiments.....	1,990 10,000
Experiment Dairy.....	1,000 1,000
Dairy School.....	9,500 10,500
Poultry.....	1,532 4,990
Horticulture.....	9,228 9,224
Mechanical Department.....	950 1,000

The increase in the estimates for Agricultural Societies, etc., is made of \$3,000 for field crops competitions, as against \$1,000 last year; \$3,000 for spring stallion shows, and \$1,000 for seed fairs. No increase has been made to Agricultural Societies in general.

The decrease of nearly \$3,000 in the live stock is due to a re-estimation of some of the items, the various associations receiving about the same. The grant to poultry associations is increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

The increase in the Institute branch is also due, \$1,000 to transfer from some other branch, and the balance for special horticulture and seed meetings, and the organization of farmers clubs, etc.

The dairy vote apparently shows a decrease of \$2,100, when, in fact, the appropriation for instruction work shows an increase of \$1,250. The item of \$3,250 for the Western Dairy School, Strathroy, is cut out of this year's estimates.

The increases at the Ontario Agricultural College, are mainly along the line of salary, and general expansion in the work. The cutting of the cost of the experimental dairy by one-half is due to some new plan adopted in receiving the milk from farmers. The College also gets \$28,750 for building account.

A vote that will interest a great many stockmen, especially in view of the present agitation to move the winter fair to the Union Stock Yards, Toronto Junction, is that of \$20,000 for additions to the present winter fair building at Guelph. Evidently the Government has made up its mind to continue the fair at the Royal City, and intend to enlarge and improve the facilities for holding the show.

The new fruit experiment station, at Jordan in the Niagara District, gets an appropriation of \$25,000, over half of which is for new buildings.

As to the general estimates, there is a new vote of \$125,000 for additional Normal Schools, with a vote of \$75,000 for the four new schools decided upon.

Some of the general increases are: \$537,246 for civil government, as against \$522,928 in 1907; \$620,84, for the administration of justice, as against \$579,568, and \$1,600,364.64 for education, as against \$1,350,105.51 in 1907. There is an increased appropriation this year in the way of grants to rural schools. There is a new vote of \$1,500 to consolidate schools. The increase in grants to inland towns, which quite markedly is due, largely, to the extra cost of supplies.