

in the pit, and on the road, soon count up. The cost of broken stone grows out of the cost of labor, for quarrying, crushing, hauling and spreading. To build a road cheaply, means a proper direction of labor. A good roads commissioner must be able to place all the men and teams under him in a position where they are



A Fit Subject for Repair

A type of road too frequently met with in some of our counties. Note the hollow centre of the road, with "hills" at the edge. Drainage is impossible from such a road as this, and without drainage we cannot have good roads.

able to do their best work. He must inspire men to work with will and enthusiasm, and must be able to tell them what to do.

Pay Attention to the Foal

At this season of the year, when the colts are coming, or are about to put in an appearance, a few words as to their care will not be out of place. Hundreds of colts perish each year that could just as well be saved, had their attendants given them the particular attention which they require, at the proper time. In many cases a simple obstruction in the rectal passage leads to complicated results if unattended. The most common ailment of this nature is failure to pass the meconium. This is a very simple trouble, with which no chances should be taken. Watch the colt closely for the first few days, and if it fails to pass this substance, steps should at once be taken to have it removed. It is well to make a practice of anticipating this trouble, and assist the colt at once by giving an injection, per rectum, of soapy water. Should the lumps be unusually hard they can be worked out by the fingers of the operator. Always take the precaution to have the finger well oiled before attempting this operation. By attending to this simple operation in time, you may save the loss of a valuable colt this spring.

Joint-ill also claims a large percentage of the foals that come. Precaution should always be taken to ward against this disease. If possible, have the mare foal on a piece of sod, or in a clean box stall, which has been freshly bedded with clean, bright straw. Have on hand a solution of some disinfectant, which can be applied to the umbilical cord as soon as the colt appears. If the attendant is on hand, he should tie the cord about three inches from the body, then apply the disinfecting solution, after which it is safe to sever the cord below the ligature. If the mare is allowed to foal unattended, especially in a dirty stall or in a filthy yard, the horse owner has himself to blame if he suffers the loss of the foal through neglect of these simple attentions.

If you weigh your milk every day, you derive a double benefit, for the milk scales are the barometer of the feeding and much better results are secured from the herd.—A. Groh, Waterloo Co., Ont.

OTHER FIGURES RELATIVE TO THE COST OF RURAL DELIVERY

The Fourteenth 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.

THE figures purporting to show the cost of rural delivery in the United States, such, for instance, as that it will cost nearly \$36,000,000 this year, have been quoted so often as evidence of the great expense of the service that people are apt to forget that the figures given represent the gross cost. The net cost is much less.

Take, as an example, the saving that has been effected through the discontinuance of small post offices. Every year as the number of rural delivery routes has increased, there has been a steady decrease in the number of post offices. This decrease, according to figures quoted in the House of Commons early in the present session, by Mr. J. E. Armstrong, M. P., the Conservative member for East Lambton, has been as follows:

In 1901 there were 77,000 post offices,
In 1902 there were 76,000 post offices,
In 1903 there were 74,150 post offices,
In 1904 there were 71,130 post offices,
In 1905 there were 68,130 post offices, ...
In 1906 there were 65,600 post offices.

Thus, in six years, the number of post offices discontinued was almost 12,000. The average increase in the number of post offices, according to Mr. Armstrong, is 2,500 a year. Thus, instead of there being only 65,000 post offices in the United States in 1906 there would have been approximately 90,000. In other words there were about 35,000 less post offices in the United States in 1906 than there would have been but for rural delivery.

STAGE ROUTES DISCONTINUED

In addition to many small post offices having been discontinued a considerable saving has been effected through the cutting off of numerous star routes or stage routes, that were maintained previously to carry the mail from the railway centres back to the country post offices. This saving in 1903, again quoting Mr. Armstrong, was \$303,000; in 1904, \$579,000; in 1905, \$535,000; and in 1906, \$383,000.

INCREASE IN MAIL HANDLED

While the cost of maintaining the small post offices that were discontinued probably was not great still it should not be overlooked. In addition, there must not be overlooked the greater revenue derived through the increase in the amount of mail handled both on the rural routes and in the city post offices. In Carrol county, Maryland, practically every farmer has his mail

newspapers and periodicals, 9 per cent.; circulars, 120 per cent.; packages, almost 35 per cent. and registered letters 23½ per cent., an



Ready to Receive the Mail

A road properly graded and ready for the crushed stone. The best results cannot be obtained from crushed stone where it is placed on the level road. It is much better to have ridges of soil to keep it in place.

average increase of 21 per cent. The amount of mail collected on all the routes showed an increase of 20 per cent.

With the advent of rural delivery the country merchant is led to send out numerous circulars or third class matter to the farmers in his section. In Carrol county the increase in this class of mail handled was 157 per cent.

In 1901 the rural letter carriers in Carrol county received applications for 1776 money orders. During 1902 over 2000 money orders were used, an increase of 1228 or 70 per cent.

While it would not be safe to conclude that the increase in the amount of mail handled has been as great on all the routes as it has been on the routes in Carrol county, it has been very marked wherever the service has been established. The reports of the post office department make frequent mention of the increase in the revenue derived wherever rural delivery is introduced.

ANOTHER SAVING

Our farmers have become so accustomed to going for their mail, or doing without, many of them do not stop to consider what the tax they are now paying indirectly, amounts to in a year. On the average route of 24 miles in the United States there are about 75 boxes. Suppose only one person in three goes for their mail each day and that they travel an average of two miles each, the total distance travelled is 50 miles. Even then, 25 people at least each day would do without their mail. Where there is a rural carrier he has to travel only 24 miles and he takes the mail to all of the 75 people on the route.

A HEAVY TAX NOW

Where there are 75 farmers on a rural route it is reasonable to estimate that it costs them an average of five cents a day to get their mail. Many farmers do not pay that much to get their mail; many others pay much more. Where a farmer has to drive to the post office for his own mail or send the hired man, the cost in loss of time and wear and tear would be nearer 10 cents a day. On a basis of five cents a day the total daily cost to the 75 farmers is \$3.75, or a total cost for a year of 50 days of \$1.125. The gross cost of a rural carrier in the States is only \$900 a year. The foregoing figures show that there are many different ways of looking at the cost of rural delivery. Still more interesting ones will be furnished in next week's article.—H.B.C.



Making a Uniform Grade

The wheel scraper is very useful in reducing hills. By means of it the soil is removed from the summit and placed on the road at the foot of the grade.

delivered at his door daily. Statistics have been gathered to find what the increase in the quantity of the mail handled in that country, since the inception of rural delivery, has been. In 1902, the number of letters delivered increased almost 16 per cent.; post cards, 21 per cent.;