

grass or buckhorn literally covers the highway. A farmer can clean it out of his fields fairly well by adopting a short rotation but the highway continues to supply him with seed. Here sheep would be especially useful as they are fond of these plants. They have a good liking for the perennial sow thistle, also. Where hogs are allowed to run on the road, they frequently turn sods upside down. This gives the seed of such weeds as the perennial sow thistle, etc., a good chance to locate. Unless sheep are there to counteract this danger, it eventually becomes a menace to neighboring farms. Another neglect on the part of improvers of our public highways is that when they grade the roads, they neglect to sow some pure grass seed on the side so that sod may form and thus prevent weed seeds getting a chance to start.

Some years ago, the Ontario legislature passed a law making it unlawful for a farmer to sell seed grain containing any one of the following six noxious weed seeds: Wild mustard, wild oats, Canada thistle, ox eye daisy, buckhorn and teasel. Had a little attention been paid to that law, fewer farms to-day would have been reeking with wild mustard and wild oats. But whoever heard of a single case being brought into the court. Public opinion was not educated to the danger of these weeds. As a result, wild oats were freely exchanged in seed oats and wild mustard seed went all over the country, not so much, perhaps, in seed grain as in clover seed.

Another law which has been practically a dead letter is the optional one whereby on the application of 50 ratepayers in a municipality, they might force the council to appoint a weed inspector, whose duties were to prevent the spread of weeds in neglected and waste places on the farms and roadways. This law did not go as far as some of the weed laws in the western provinces. There the inspectors have power to order or cause the weeds to be destroyed in a crop which contained a certain per cent. of weeds. Our Ontario law prevents the destruction of weeds in a grain crop by an inspector where the grain crop, in consequence will be jeopardized. In the case of the perennial sow thistle, the weed which the Ontario farmer is up against in a real sense to-day, such a law is ineffective. There are many farmers who feel strongly the need to ask for protection from a careless or indifferent farmer who allows his perennial sow thistles to go to seed. The better the farming, the greater the danger from perennial sow thistle contamination. To say that this weed is spreading is drawing it only mildly. It is spreading with leaps and bounds and there is no encouragement to its eradication, unless our farms can be protected through future supplies of seed. If the farmers would speak out on this question and post their representatives of the danger of this weed, it is probable that it would be fully discussed by the agricultural committee of the legislature this year and eventually some protection might be afforded to clean farmers.

Our Dominion law in the Seed Control Act is contributing some assistance to the prevention of the spread of noxious weeds. The average source of seed supply is from weeds to-day than ever it was. Especially is this true in the case of timothy, alsike and red clover. There continues to be sown, however, lots of seed grain containing more or less of prohibited weed seeds without any label being put on the package as is required by law. The law states that if certain weed seeds, 14 in number, and including wild mustard, wild oats, purple cockle, sow thistle, ragweed and others are found in the seed, the package must be labelled. These seeds are being imported in large numbers in the frozen wheat that is coming from the West. Dealers object to putting up their sign thinking that it is like putting a board on the cow's face. Fur-

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WHAT FARMERS SAY ABOUT RURAL DELIVERY

The Nineteenth 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.

FOR many miles the state of New York adjoins the province of Ontario, being separated from it by only the St. Lawrence and Niagara rivers and Lake Ontario. The farming country throughout large portions of the state of New York is so closely similar to that in the older portions of Ontario, that it is practically the same. The farms are about the same in size and the methods of farming that are followed are closely similar. There is one great difference, however. In the state of New York, the farmers have free rural mail delivery. In the province of Ontario only a few miles away, the farmers are still without this boon.

At Clifton Springs, New York, when I asked the Postmaster for the names of leading farmers, in order that I might obtain their views regarding free rural delivery, one of the first names he gave me was that of Olin Corwin. When Mr. Corwin's place was visited he was caught just as he was leaving his home with a load of cabbages, weighing about two tons.

"In this section," said Mr. Corwin, "many of our farmers enjoy both free rural delivery and farm telephones. I do not know which is the greatest benefit to us. They are God-sends to our farmers. My telephone costs me \$12 a year. For two years, now, I have sold nearly all my crops over the telephone. I am to deliver this load of cabbages at Phelps. I telephoned and found that the agent expected to load cabbages on the car and am therefore taking him this load. Had I not had a telephone I would have had to drive in one and a half miles, to find when they would be ready to load and then would have to come back home, load it up and deliver the load. Thus I would have had to make two trips, where now I am making only one. Soon we expect to have an electric line through here and to be able to install electric lights in our farm homes and barns.

FARMS WORTH MORE

"Rural delivery and farm telephones have increased the value of our farms by 20 per cent. They save a great deal of travelling and enable us to keep in touch with market prices, and that is something that is very important to up-to-date farmers. Help is so scarce that we cannot depend on it and if we have to go to the village for our mail, or to arrange for the sale of our crops, we have to take our best time in which to do it.

"In a section north of here farms, three years ago, sold for \$45.00 an acre and they were hard to sell at that price. It was also hard to get tenants for farms in that section. The farmers hated to have to go for their mail, or to hitch up and drive four or five miles to find the prices being paid at the shipping points. Now they have free rural delivery and farm telephones and land is selling at \$65 an acre. It is more easy to sell farms at that price than it used to be to sell them at \$45. It is also more easy to rent them.

WOULD NOT DARE

"We have been told that were the Democrats to come into power they would do away with free rural delivery. Don't you believe it. No party would dare to do it. Do you think that I, or any farmer in this section, would support such a move? Just think how nice it is. Every morning, summer and winter, my mail is delivered at my door sharp at quarter after nine, thus every morning I am able to open my letters and glance over the daily papers and thus am kept informed in regard to what is going on. There is not a

farmer in this section who would think of allowing this system to be done away with."

When I told Mr. Corwin that the Canadian Postmaster General claimed that the rural delivery system in the United States was being run by the politicians for political purposes, he replied: "Your Postmaster General does not know what he is talking about. It is not the case. We never heard of such a thing."

GROW MANY CABBAGES

Having noticed acres upon acres of cabbages I asked Mr. Corwin how it was that this was such a popular crop. "We grow them, he replied, for the canning factories. They are used for Sauer kraut. These factories will take 400 tons a day and they pay us about \$5.00 a ton. The average yield per acre is about 10 tons, so that you will see that the crop pays us well. Some of our farmers average as high as 18 tons to the acre. Potatoes are our next largest crop. Some dairying is done."

Mrs. M. N. Hughes lives on a farm adjoining Mr. Corwin. "We used to live," said Mrs. Hughes, "in the township of Hopewell and got our mail from Seneca Castle, about three miles away. We had to go for our mail when we did not get it through our neighbor. Sometimes we did not receive our mail for a week at a time. Now we get our mail every day through the rural carrier and think it is just splendid. We are taking a daily paper and have the farm telephone as well."

IS A GREAT BENEFIT

Mr. R. M. Knickerbocker was found in a field loading a wagon with cabbages. "We used to get our mail from Clifton Springs two miles away," said Mr. Knickerbocker. "Now it is delivered at our door by the carrier. Rural delivery has proved a great benefit to our farmers as formerly they frequently did not receive their mail more than once a week. I live at a cross-roads and two routes pass my door. I take my mail from the Clifton Springs carrier, because he gets here about half past nine in the morning. The other carrier does not get here until eleven o'clock. Rural delivery has increased the value of our farms. Our farmers are taking twice the number of papers they did formerly.

WINTER ROADS

"In winter the path masters have to get out and open the roads for the carriers after a storm. If they do not do this the carriers do not have to deliver the mail. Sometimes our carrier does not get through but generally he does."

"Not one farmer in ten in this section used to take a daily paper," said Mr. Thos. Lally, "and now they all take one at least and some take two. Before we got rural delivery, I had to get my mail at Phelps, two miles away. Thus I did not receive my mail for four or five days at a time and sometimes for a week. Now it is brought to me every day and I am able to take a daily paper without having to run after it. The farm telephone is a handy thing. I haven't got one now, but I intend to have one soon."

MONEY IN CABBAGES

That there is money in the growing of cabbages in the vicinity of Clifton Springs was indicated by what I was told on the farm of Wm. Lally, who was found loading cabbages in a field that gave evidence of having produced a splendid crop. "My cabbages," said Mr. Lally, "will average 18 tons to the acre and I am being paid