

any moment for a short, pleasant conversation. It is indeed a sign of the times.

No place on this continent, if not on the whole globe, has developed the rural telephone service as much as the north-eastern portion of the State of Ohio. In one County (Geauga), which is strictly agricultural, hundreds of farmers have phones in their houses. So numerous are the wires that they have been likened to a gigantic spider's web covering the whole country. One of the local companies, known as the Binbridge Tel. Co., is operated by eight farmers, who own everything, from franchise to switch-board. This company was organized two years ago. Each shareholder owns one-eighth interest, and all share equally the assessments and dividends. A number of officers are elected annually including a general manager, who has the general supervision of the lines. The primary object in constructing the lines was not to build them for an investment but as a help in the transaction of business among the farmers of the district, and to give the farmer's household some of the social privileges that are too often lacking on the farm. All material is purchased wholesale. Cedar poles, 25 feet high and 5 to 6 inches in diameter, are used on all long lines. The posts are set 4 to 4½ feet deep and from 200 to 225 feet apart. Good painted cross-arms are securely fastened to the poles with lag-bolts. Special telephone wire ranging in size from Nos. 9 to 12 is used. This comes in coils containing one-half mile and is vastly better than common wire.

Only the best long distance telephones are used. A modern 100 drop switch-board is centrally located in the home of one of the company, who, with the help of his family, attends to this work very satisfactorily. Upon retiring for the night the operator switches on the electric night-bell, which is located in his sleeping room. A call on any wire during the night immediately sets this bell ringing, and it continues to ring until the call is answered by the operator. A record is kept of all the toll messages each day, whether sent or received, and at the end of each month a statement is prepared for each company with which connection is made.

The rental price is \$12 per annum, or \$1.25 per month, to subscribers, for which each one receives for his family, hired help and company the free use of the lines of the company and those with which it has connection. Beyond this a low rate of 10 to 20c. is charged according to the distance. The low rate of rental is made possible in the country by placing several phones on each circuit. Usually one road or neighborhood is on the same wire, each one having his own signal or ring, as it is called. From four to eight at most are enough on the same circuit to insure first-class service without becoming too mixed up. Electric storms cause some trouble, but by far the greatest difficulty is the induction between parallel wires.

This company started with three outside subscribers and now has over 50, with 30 miles of poles and 100 of wire. Reciprocity arrangements give free use of 150 more phones, including a village of 3,000 population.

Preparing Geese, Ducks and Chickens for Market

In last week's FARMING we gave some information taken from the last annual report of the agriculture and dairy commissioner as to killing and dressing turkeys for the British market, and herewith we reproduce from the same source similar information in regard to marketing geese, ducks and chickens. While this information was intended to help those engaged in preparing poultry for the Old Country markets, it is none the less valuable for those catering to the home trade. The dealers and consumers in our cities and towns are just as desirous of getting their dressed poultry in proper shape as the English consumer is and are willing to pay a premium for neatness, care and skill shown in the goods they purchase.

The extracts from the above report are as follows :

GEESE AND DUCKS.

Geese are in demand in Great Britain for a longer time after Christmas than is usually the case in markets on this side of the Atlantic. It is not probable that a profitable



Figure 9 shows a duck ready to be packed.



Figure 10 shows a back view of a goose dressed and ready to be packed.

trade of large volume can be developed in them in the near future. The supply of ducks, chickens and fowls in Canada is hardly yet sufficient for the demand of the Canadian home trade. Where trial shipments of geese and ducks are to be made, the following points should be observed :—



Figure 11 shows the back view of a fowl ready to be packed.

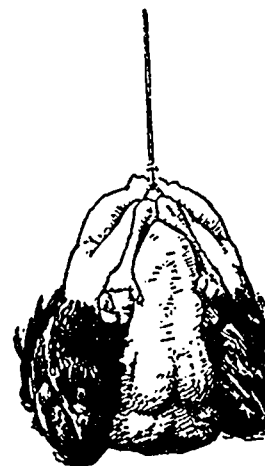


Figure 12 shows the front view of a fowl with the head pushed through under the wing.

29. The geese and ducks should be fasted for at least 24 hours before being killed.

30. They should be killed by cutting in the roof of the mouth. The cutting should be lengthwise, across, and deep enough to reach the brain.