

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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however—first sale, and where necessary manufacture, as
soon as members are willing to undertake it. There
are enormous profits in this industry, and as much as
\$50 per acre has been received for peas sold to private
factories in Ontario. [Note.—A man who had been en-
gaged in tomato-growing for a canning factory in West-
ern Ontario, cited a case to us the other day, where as
much as \$125 per acre has been received for tomato
crops.—Editor.]

The sale and purchase of seed grains, and the mar-
keting of other crops, should prove a fruitful application
of co-operation. Those who have been watching the
discussion of the Pure-seed Bill, and all who deplore the
present unsatisfactory conditions in the purchase of seed
grains, etc., can see at once the advantages of co-operative
action to ensure getting pure seed.

Co-operative ownership of threshing machines is pos-
sible, for it has been successfully tried in Ontario, as
readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" are aware. It is
unnecessary to recount the details as already published.

War against noxious weeds and insects by co-operative
organization has never been discussed in Canada,
so far as can be learned. French vine owners have
done wonders in this direction, however. In view of
the fact that enormous losses are caused every year by
insects, amounting to over \$700,000,000 annually in the
United States, and scarcely smaller losses by weeds;
seeing that provincial statutes, even when enforced by
municipal by-laws, do not effect a serious reduction of
such losses, it is high time something should be done
by all farmers anxious to remedy matters. Should
such men organize, township by township, with regula-
tions for the adoption of concerted action in the eradica-
tion of weeds by scientific methods aggressively ap-
plied, and in the combatting of insect pests of all kinds,
these foes of the farmer would be greatly reduced with-
in a few years. Such an association could secure, not
only the passage of the municipal by-law, but its en-
forcement through the association's officers, acting as
such instead of as individuals—a distinction potent
enough in every neighborhood. Everyone, without ex-
ception, agrees that weeds and insects are a nuisance
and a loss to the farm. Few are encouraged to take
the pains—often costly—to fight them when neighbors do
not, and so no one acts when each acts alone. By
organizing to ensure common action, few would stay
outside, and the majority, aided by the present law and
enforcement, would act in the interests of every farmer in
the township. It is safe to say that nothing effective
can be done in this direction until co-operation is
adopted.

In our view, a good deal of study

and some travel in countries abroad where farmers co-
operate as they cultivate, convinced me of the urgent
need for co-operative organization by our own farmers.
This conviction lies behind every word of this succession
of discussions of the subject, and my readers may be
sure that, had space, ability and the possibility of get-
ting absolutely complete information about what is al-
ready being done in this way by our own farmers per-
mitted, the same conviction would by now have been
strong in the minds of them all. Though brief for such
important subjects, the discussions have been put as
logically as possible, and as for further information, the
faith and works of the now many fruit-selling associa-
tions, of the Kent Produce Co., of the new Farmers'
Manufacturing & Supply Co., of Durham (of which I
may write subsequently), and others, do they not en-
courage the hopeful? Co-operation for profits is needed
in the farmer's business, and it is already evident that
he knows it. The chief caution should be, to have as
uniform a system as possible in all similar organiza-
tions, having an eye to complete ultimate federation.
For the rest, the objects of organization should never
be lost sight of, and they should be secured on organi-
zation by the rules adopted. Remember, the essential
feature of co-operation is its use TO MAKE THE
BUSINESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MORE
PROFITABLE, not to invest money so as to earn
profits. True co-operation properly put to work can-
not possibly fail. Investments of money for profits may
prove a dead loss, as many shareholders of pork-packing
companies know. The farmers cannot organize too
soon—but they may organize too hastily. Proper cau-
tion is necessary, and careful understanding of the con-
ditions.

AUSTIN L. MCCREDIE.

Better Postal Service for Farmers.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have read with much interest your edi-
torials of April 27th and May 25th, in reference
to "Our Postal Service." I quite agree with
you that it is a matter of importance that the
farmers of Canada shall be given the best pos-
sible postal accommodation. There is no reason,
that I can think of, why it is not as great a
pleasure and as great a necessity that the farm-
ers shall be enabled to receive daily newspapers
—with their general news and market reports—
as that such papers be carried daily to the resi-
dents of the villages, towns and cities, and the
same is true as to business and social correspond-
ence. Of course, some regard must be had to
economy, and it must be remembered that it costs
considerably more to carry the mail to a given
number of farmers than to the same number of
persons living in a village or larger place.

I do not believe that it would be wise to
attempt rural mail delivery in Canada, at least
at present. It would be quite too expensive to
inaugurate that system throughout the Dominion,
and with the system in operation in parts only
of the country, it would follow that while one
portion of the people would receive the benefit
of the service, the people of the unserved portions,
without any benefit, would have to help to pay the
expense. And it would likely be that the more
thickly-settled parts of the country, which have
already the better post-office accommodation, would
be the districts where rural mail delivery would
be established, leaving the conditions unimproved
in the more thinly-settled, and now more needy,
districts. And, again, there might be a
suspicion, whatever Government should happen to
be in power at Ottawa, a suspicion possibly
without foundation, that in the matter of rural
mail delivery constituencies that had favored the
Government were being favored in return.

I do think that country post offices should be
located, as far as possible, in convenient centers.
Where the office is near a school the pupils pro-
vide a cheap and effective "rural mail delivery."
I further think that in the country districts daily
mails should be established as widely and as
rapidly as possible. I also believe that in many
cases country postmasters are not sufficiently paid
for the obligation to see, often at great incon-
venience, that someone is constantly in attend-
ance during office hours for the handling of the
mails, the house room given up, and the extra
housecleaning required, as well as the extra fuel
used—as is often done—by an hospitable and kind-
hearted postmaster to provide for the "warm-
ing" of children and others who have come long
distances for their mail. Although the salaries
of the postmasters in the smaller country offices
have been increased in recent years, and although
there has been a considerable betterment of the
rural mail service, there is yet no doubt, room
for considerable further improvement.

For most of the desired improvement our
farmers will have to look entirely to the Post-
master-General, who is, I believe, anxious to
serve the interests of the farmers as fully as pos-
sible, and to make improvement in the
service as quickly as possible. There is,
however, something that our farmers can
do for themselves in the matter, and
that is to be loyal to their own officers. The
only guide that the Post-office Department has
as to the number of persons accommodated or
served at a country office is the revenue of the
office, and upon this is based the postmaster's
salary. And the revenue, as the measure or

gauge as to the number of persons served, is
the guide as to whether the office is of such im-
portance as to merit a more or less frequent
service. I think that farmers, in place of buying
their postage stamps at their little home office,
frequently get their stamps and mail their letters
when they "go to town" at the town office. If
sometimes it may be more convenient to mail
the letters in town, or if by so doing the letter
will reach its destination more quickly, it will
still be quite possible to buy the stamps at the
home office. I believe that if farmers will all and
always be careful to patronize their own post
offices, that they will thereby, to a surprising
extent, increase the respective revenues of the
home offices, and cause them to be looked upon
by the Department as of greater importance, and
thus entitled to improved service, with increased
salaries to the postmasters.

H. H. MILLER.

House of Commons, Ottawa, May 31st, 1905.

The Farmers' Postal Service.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Your editorials of April 27th and May
25th on the unsatisfactory mail service in the
rural districts, were very timely, and I feel sure
are heartily endorsed by thousands of readers, as
well as myself. As it appears, we are not to
get rural mail delivery on account of the expense;
the taxes paid by the people apparently being
needed for railway subsidies, bounties for iron
and lead miners, the delivery of the mail two and
three times daily in the cities, and the number-
less other matters that are being so generously
dealt with—annually increasing our expenditure at
such an enormous rate. Some of us are begin-
ning to doubt the wisdom of our action some
years ago in helping to turn out the old Govern-
ment and replacing them with what we thought
were men who would do equal justice to all—the
farmers included.

Now, I live in a thickly-settled part of the
old County of Elgin, Ont. For a good number
of us, in quite a large district, the village of
Dutton is the most convenient post office, and
that will be from four to six miles distant. Just
think, Mr. Editor—some of us with a large cor-
respondence and anxious to get our mail every
day, having to go six miles to the P. O. A
number of us bring each other's mail to a central
place. Perhaps in that mail are letters to be
answered by return mail; then there is a drive
of six miles to the post office. For a number of
years we had an office in about the center of
this settlement, but for the miserable pittance re-
ceived the postmaster declined to keep it any
longer; he told me it would not exceed \$20.00
per annum. I understand the salaries for these
rural officers has been doubled a year or so ago;
but who would care to have his house turned in-
to a public office and be under the necessity of
having to keep someone there all hours of the
day to hand out mail for \$40 or \$50 a year? It
is remarkable what the farmers will stand.
For instance, the present Government gave a
subsidy of \$3,200 per mile to the Pere Marquette
railroad—running parallel to the M. C. R.; noth-
ing but a fence dividing the two lines; it is no
earthly use to our people; it is simply a through
route for a foreign railway company; it has not
lowered the rate one cent on the M. C. R.; it
was simply a present of hundreds of thousands
of dollars to a Yankee railway company, and
they neglect to make needed reforms for
their own people in the matter of better mail
facilities. I am sure the great bulk of your
readers will appreciate your effort in their be-
half, proving that our old paper is really the
"Farmer's Advocate" in deed as well as name.

Elgin Co., Ont.

R. J. HINE.

May 30th, 1905.

The Folly of It.

We noticed the other day in a Western exchange a
note commenting on the amount of fertilizer used by
farmers of the New England, Atlantic and Southern
States, where, it said, the cost of fertilizers alone in
growing crops runs from five to six dollars per acre.
Under these conditions, it observed, the Western farmers
would not require to be lectured so much in order to
persuade them to take care of the fertilizing element
which they grow on their farms. Possibly not, al-
though our observation is that in the regions where
fertilizer is used the largest purchases are frequently
made by the most shiftless farmers, who take the least
care of their manure. While the manure leaches and
seeps outside the stable door, the fertilizer man
pockets the dollars that should be invested in concrete
floors, manure sheds, manure-spreaders, and elbow
grease. Then we hear that "farming don't pay." No
wonder.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM FOR SALE OR
WANT A SITUATION, PUT AN ADVERTISE-
MENT UNDER THE HEADING OF "WANT AND
FOR SALE" IN THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE."