

Farmers' Telephones

J. J. G. York Co., Ont.

Most of us who have not taken the trouble to look into the question, think of the telephone and the telephone exchange as being a complicated mechanism, which only experts can install and operate. To a large degree this is true of the sort of system that is required by a city having a population of over four or five thousand, but with the rural system—fortunately for the farmer—it is different.

With the rural system there may or may not be a central switchboard. As a rule, a rural system starts with just one line about as follows:

A number of farmers living on the same side of a town get together and decide to build, for their mutual benefit, a telephone line. Each man agrees to cut, peel and haul a given number of poles—30 poles about 22 feet or 25 feet long being required for each mile of line.

Before the poles, which are set in the ground three and a half feet, are erected, two brackets, on the end of each of which is fastened a glass insulator, are nailed to the pole, one 18 inches over the other. Having set the poles, two double galvanized iron telephone wires are strung the entire length of the line. Branch lines, taking care of the farmers living off the main route, can be fastened to the main line wires at any point.

When the wire is all strung, each joint being carefully soldered, in order to be sure of having a good, tight contact between each section, two wires are run, one from each of the main line wires, to two binding posts located on the telephone set which the farmer has installed in his residence.

So far has the telephone been perfected as to make it possible for as many as 35 or 40 telephones to be installed on such a line as that described, and the total length of the line, including the length of the branch lines, may be 40 or 45 miles.

What we have described, is a so-called "full metallic" system. While costing at the outset somewhat more than the one-wire "grounded" system, it gives better results under all conditions.

The total cost of all the material (less poles) required to build a mile of "full metallic" line is but \$13.74, and the very best telephone on the market, with all material for installing it ready for use, can be had for \$13.00. If we assume, therefore, that there will be on an average one telephone for every mile of line, the grand total initial cost for each farmer for the very best system, is but \$20.74.

The maintenance expense on such a line, including wear and tear on the equipment, should be less than \$3 a year. Just think of it—for 35 cents a month the farmer can have telephone service with his neighbor, doctor, broker and merchant. At a slightly larger expense he can usually have lines, through these reaching all of their local subscribers and long distance points.

What other agency than the rural telephone can more economically or efficiently increase the earning power of our farms and farmers, or increase the pleasure of farm life? Perhaps we are not far wrong in believing that the general use of the rural telephone will, aside from increasing wonderfully the value of our farm property, do more towards protecting the home than any or all other agencies combined.

The cost is insignificant as compared with the benefits secured. Certainly this is a subject worthy of your most careful consideration.

British Columbia in Line

Among the many subscriptions received in our office during the past week has been a large list of new subscriptions from British Columbia. This list comprises the entire membership of the British Columbia Dairy men's Association, all of whom this year will receive Farm and Dairy. We are glad to know that Farm and Dairy is so well known as to win such an association as the above subscribing for it for all its members.

This means that the dairymen of British Columbia will be kept fully posted with all dairy news throughout Canada as Farm and Dairy aims to promote the dairy interests of the Dominion in every way possible. The two dairymen's associations of Ontario have recently sent us their entire list of members as subscribers to Farm and Dairy for a year and the other provincial associations have given us assurance that at the time of their annual meeting they will do likewise.

Jersey Register of Merit

A complimentary copy of the new edition of the "Register of Merit of Jersey Cattle," has recently come to hand. It contains the records of the animals entered to June 30, 1908, a list of their breeders and owners, and a list of sires having daughters in this advanced register. It is illustrated with 151 portraits of Jerseys.

The purpose of this Register of Merit is to raise to a still higher standard the average excellence of the Jersey cow, and to secure an additional authoritative and permanent record to which reference can be

made in the selection of breeding animals. It is expected that it will be of great value to both present and prospective breeders and owners of Jersey cattle. Copies will be sent free on application to the secretary of the club, Mr. J. J. Hemingway, No. 8, West Seventeenth street, New York. Ten cents in stamps for postage should accompany the application.

Our Fountain Pen Offer.—Our offer to give a 14kt gold fountain pen as a premium for the securing of only one new subscription to Farm and Dairy at \$1 a year is proving very popular. We have disposed of several dozen of these fountain pens and in every instance they have proved satisfactory. Have you won one yet?

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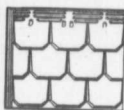
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