

May 6, 1909.

FARM AND DAIRY

7

on in a sort of stream over a limited area and then by means of a wide brush attached to a pole, the whole was distributed and brushed even.

While these cheaper forms of paint and these quick methods of applying them can safely be recommended for barns and for rough work, it is not the part of wisdom to buy anything but the best grades for work connected with the house. Home mixed oil and lead, tinted to the color desired, or one of the standard brands of ready mixed paints (I may say Sherwin Williams is my favorite) will be found the most satisfactory for use inside and outside the house, and upon implements. For wagons and vehicles especially prepared carriage paint only should be used.

Rural Telephones in Kent County

J. O. Laird, Kent Co., Ont., Pres. Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

It is no more a question among the rural population as to whether or not it is advisable to have a telephone system. The telephone has proven not only to be convenient but that it is a paying investment for the farmer in these times of hurry and bustle.

Several systems of establishing a telephone service have been tried in the United States and in Canada. In the County of Kent, there is a telephone system under the joint stock company plan, the shares of the stock being held among the farmers and town people of the district. A board of directors have been elected from among the shareholders. The company is incorporated at \$10,000, divided into \$10 shares. The stock is all sold and paid in, and the company purpose increasing their capital to \$50,000. The investment to the shareholders has proven to be a good one, as the first dividend of 7 per cent. on the money invested has been paid. Besides being able to pay this dividend, the company has a reserve fund of several hundred dollars from its earnings.

A REASONABLE COST.

This telephone system has also given good satisfaction to the farmers and others who have the use of the phones. The service is given at a reasonable rate. A subscriber may select one of three kind of phones, any of which he can hear over equally well. The most expensive kind is the \$16 phone. By using the phone which costs \$16 a year, the subscriber has only one ring, that is if his phone rings once, he knows that is his call. The second, or \$14 phone, is so arranged that the subscriber will hear the call of one other phone, and so one party will require to have two rings for his call. On the cheapest or \$12 phone, the subscriber will hear the rings of three other parties besides that of his own phone. But in calling up the central office the ring is heard on-

ly at the station. The cost to use the phone from pay stations by non-subscribers is ten cents for three minutes.

The construction of the telephone lines has been fairly rapid in South Kent. A good deal of ground has been covered in about one year and over 250 phones are now on the exchange. A continuous service is maintained. The cost of construction of course is considerable. For a two wire line, the cost is about \$50 a mile, but when cross beams are used and more wings put on, the cost is increased by the cost of the extra wire and beams.

A COMMENDABLE PLAN.

Our telephones would average about a quarter of a mile apart. As the whole system has been constructed, including cost of poles, paid an initial dividend of seven per cent., and has given the farmers a good service at a reasonable rate, we are safe in recommending this plan for securing a telephone service, providing it is managed by capable and honest men. Our local com-

Doing a Great Work

Farm and Dairy under its new management is doing a great work and its value as an up-to-date exponent of modern dairy methods is being appreciated by the progressive cow keepers of Ontario.—R. Rothwell, Hillsdale Farm, Carleton Co., Ont.

pany has no connection with the Bell Telephone Company. As the business men of the town have the rural phone, the farmers do not require the connection with the Bell, and it is seldom that the average farmer requires a long distance connection. We are safe in saying, however, that before many years, independent telephone lines will be found in every county, and long distance connection can then be secured if necessary over independent lines.

The value of the phone is shown in many ways. I recall the remarks of a subscriber to the Rural Phone, who had his barn burned a few weeks ago. He said, "Had it not been for the fact that I was able to notify my neighbors by phone, my loss would have been increased by \$1,000, for without their help, I would have lost my stable and implements."

Experience with Sow Thistle

W. S. Fraser, Simcoe Co., Ont.

I sincerely hope that nobody will have the same experience with sow thistle as I have had. Years ago, a small patch appeared on one of my farms. I took a specimen of it to a farmers' institute meeting and had it identified. Since that time, there has been much sow thistle in our locality,

and we think we are as good farmers, if not a little better, than most.

There are two ways of killing sow thistle; first, detach it from the soil. Second, keep it from getting to the air. There are various ways of doing this work and probably there is no one best way under all conditions. It is best to fight the sow thistle when favorable conditions obtain. It does not take so long to eradicate sow thistle as we sometimes think. The summer fallow is the easiest way of getting rid of it. By this means, it is more easily destroyed than is the Canada thistle; it will be destroyed probably five weeks or two or three cultivations sooner.

ITS ERADICATION.

We can eradicate sow thistle in a hood crop but not in one season, as some plants will escape. We must keep it from forming leaves. A short rotation is favorable for ridding one's fields of sow thistle. If it is all over one's farm, however, something more drastic is necessary. Early after harvest cultivation will keep it in check. Gang plowing, followed afterwards by cultivation will weaken the plant, and the next year it will not seed.

Co-operation is the great word that farmers as yet have not found out its full value. It is very applicable in the case of sow thistle as it blows from one farm to another and will come down from above on a still night. A field that is clean one year, may be patched with sow thistle the next, it coming from the seed that may have come long distances and has been deposited as suggested. I have little faith in legislation as a medium for fighting weeds. We have had legislation on many things and it is often a dead letter. The legislation is O.K., but we need the application of the law.

MAY RUN ITS COURSE.

I am inclined to think that weeds run in epidemics as it were. Take, for instance, the pigeon weed, which we used to pull. We had to abandon it and now we have no pigeon weed, not one-fifth as much as we had before we abandoned the practice of pulling. It would appear as if self-destruction worked against it. False flax, which at one time was so alarming is also gone to a large extent. Probably sow thistle will go also.

Sow thistle prevents the growing of crops and where it exists, fields are often not worth cutting. Summer fallowing, may I state again, is perhaps the most effective remedy. It will not thrive as well where sheep raising is practised, for sheep are fond of sow thistle as well as of other weeds.

Keep hammering away about the commission to Denmark and the bacon question. We don't want men appointed on it because they have a pull with the government. Let the farmers be represented without any string on their representatives.—E. A. McKinn, Grenville Co., Ont.



Well Kept Buildings on a Well Kept Farm Where Modern Improvements are the Watchword of Its Progressive Owners
Messrs. Laidlaw and Sons, of Elgin Co., Ont., who own the buildings illustrated, have made great improvements on their farm. The buildings are fitted up with the latest labor saving contrivances. Read the fuller account of this place appearing on page 17 of this issue.