

Transcribed Excerpt from Selected Section of the Annual Report of the Postmaster-General of the United States, 1891

To say that I rejoice to see your inaugurate this free-delivery system in the country districts is merely, in a feeble way, to echo the voice of hundreds of farmers and newspapers... There is no question that your plan, once established, would be a great factor to keep the young folks on the farm, to keep them from joining the great army of the unemployed in the cities; to take away the loneliness of farm life; to teach farmers that merchants, corporations, railroad companies, and big bugs are not forever, in some mysterious way, getting up some plan of oppression for them, or are ready to devour them. It will make their homes more sociable; give them, during the winter months, a chance for self-education and means of social intercourse; it will give their city friends a better opportunity to visit them, by announcing their intended coming so that they can meet them at the train. It will bring the farmers into contact with the basis of supply. They can send away and get their goods cheaper. It will make country life more sought after, and our cities, already overcrowded, less desired by the coming generations who are now filling our streets with malcontents. Our fields will be better tilled and farmers, what they ought to be, the most cultivated of men.