

"Telephones on Farms" Newspaper Article, December 30, 1902

Telephones On Farms

They Are Exerting a Fine Influence in Extending the Social Life of Rural Districts

Talk about it as we may, and considering every other excuse we may offer, the social dies of his nature is what has driven the young man from the farm to the town in perhaps nine cases out of ten. To the fact that the isolation of the farm, under the influence of later-day invention, is becoming more and more a thing of the past, is in large part due the distinct movement, which now is recognized everywhere, back to the farm. Among the first of these is the farmer's telephone, which to-day is exerting such a fine influence in extending the social life of rural districts, annihilating distance and brining the voices of the men and women and young folk of the neighborhood farms, near and remote, to the ear in familiar and pleasant converse, lighting up the hour, once so dreary with sheet lonesomeness, and peopling the home with kindred spirits.

There are some of the things which do much for the farm in a social and business way - the trolley, for instance. The trolley means the investment of many thousands of dollars. Not so with the telephone. A few dollars invested in wire, insulators, transmitter and receive, a few days' work in setting out poles and strings of wires, and presto! the world is at your call! We know of one Wisconsin farmer whose telephone cost him \$19, and he has connection with city and county 'phones, is a director in one Farmers' Telephone company which has 60 miles of wire of its own, and one or two sales made on the Chicago market, as a result of having the 'phone in his house, paid for the outfit many times over. In his case the telephone was not only not an expense, but a source of large gain, and we are confident this has proved to be the case in thousands of instances.

Every farmer should have a telephone in his house. None many enumerate its advantages nor catalogue its uses. It not only encourages sociability, it creates it in many a life; it brings the doctor within call; the merchant is always at hand; it saves many a weary journey and gives to real service many an hour that otherwise must have been lost. Now is the time to put in the 'phone wherever one is lacking. The long winter days and evenings will be made more pleasurable because of its presence to every member of the family. And the economy and value of it may not be computed. – Farmers' Voice.