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Teaching Father to Farm

Continued from Page 7

\$150; pig raising, \$51; potatoes, \$460; bread baking, \$130; canning and preserving, \$98; compositions, \$320.

Educating Their Fathers

Not only have the boys and girls profited by this enterprise, but the parents as well. The farmer has seen the boy's plot outstrip his own, not because he had better seed, but because of more frequent cultivation.

The success of the work is due to the close co-operation of the departments of education and agriculture with the extension service section of the Agricultural College and to the enthusiastic support given to the movement by practically every local interest in the community.

Possibly the greatest success was achieved where eight or nine schools combined with their marketing or rural town centre and held their own local fair and then sent forward their best products as a unit to compete with several other districts at the big central fair held on the first day of the teachers' convention.

Department's Generous Assistance

Altogether prizes were paid out amounting to over \$1,870. The department of agriculture offered every encouragement, not only in assisting the teachers to organize clubs and in furnishing certain material free, but in giving a grant of 50 per cent. of the money actually paid out in prizes. As a consequence, all of the clubs that were in existence this year are on a sound financial basis for next year's activities.

A teacher near Binscarth was most enthusiastic over the influence of the club work on the attendance at school and the spirit of the classes. Said she: "Last year I thought that hens were just hens and that all of them laid about the same number and the same kind of eggs. This year all my pupils know the characteristics of half a dozen kinds of chickens and the advantages of each. I myself have learned more about farming thru the Boys' and Girls' Club than I ever did out of books alone."

Suggestions for Organization

To those interested in the organization of this work the extension department has the following suggestions to offer:—

- 1.—Get extension bulletin No. 15 from the Agricultural College.
- 2.—Get the club organized before Christmas.
- 3.—Plan on a club to be composed of one town or village school as the community centre and six or seven adjoining rural schools.
- 4.—Get the principal or secretary-treasurer of the central school to take the initiative.
- 5.—When the school trustees' convention for the district is held, get a district representative, the school inspector or someone from the extension service to outline the work.
- 6.—Appoint a central committee of say three and one representative from each of the rural schools and one representative each from the Grain Growers', the Home Economics Society, Agricultural Society and any other organization in the community.
- 7.—Interest one grown-up citizen in each member of the club.
- 8.—Encourage the boys and girls to have their own business organization and to manage the affairs of the club, the older members only acting when the junior organization gives evidence of breaking down. In managing the business end of the club work, the boys and girls are developing ability which will stand them in good stead when in a very short time community leaders will be needed to direct the wider activities of the neighborhood.

The landlady of a well-known boarding-house always made a point of asking departing guests to write something in her visitors' book. She was very proud of it—of some of the people whose names were in the volume, and the nice things they said.

"But there's one thing I can't understand," the lady confided to a friend, "and that is what an American gentleman put in the book after stopping here. People always smile when they read it."

"What was it?" queried the other. "He only wrote the words, 'Quoth the raven!'"

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