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It will also pay you to send us a rough Sketch of your Stables, tell us how many cows you want to milk, say whether or not you have power available, or will require power, and WE'LL FURNISH YOU WITH AN ESTIMATE of just what it will cost you to put in your stable a B-K Mechanical Milker. There will be no obligation on your part to buy. It will interest you to have these facts. It will pay you, as it pays others, to have a B-K Milker.

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O.K. CANADIAN POTATO DIGGER

will save its cost in no time by its saving of labor. The purchase of such a machine is one of the best investments the farmer can make. It will repay him dividends of larger profits for years.

The O.K. Canadian Potato Digger is exceedingly simple in construction and operation. It is designed to avoid undue strain on any one part and built throughout of steel and malleable iron. It digs all the potatoes without damaging them and lays them in a row ready to be gathered.

Investigate the O.K. Canadian Digger and you will see that you cannot afford to be without it. 26

Write for our booklet "Money in Potatoes."

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Dept. F GALT, ONT.



A Rural Teachers' Conference

Alice A. Ferguson, Maple Avenue Farm, York Co., Ont.

THE study of the science of Agriculture has received an impetus that will we trust eventually place it upon a high plane, as not only a most fascinating study for our rural schools but one that will re-proportion our educational methods, and will prove an anchor to hold our boys and girls on the good old farm, and make it the best place ever. Such promises to be the immediate result of the Rural Teachers' Conference held at the O. A. College, Guelph, from Aug. 1 to 7. Even more than this is hoped for in years to come.

This conference is unique in being the first of its kind. As far as the Teachers' Associations represented by about 140 teachers. This number was supplemented by other interested teachers and the teachers from the summer school at Macdonald Institute. So the spacious beautiful campus and college halls swarmed with enthusiastic agriculturists who are rural in spirit in location. The majority were ladies who manfully tackle a man's job till such time as proper re-adjustment takes place and each fills his or her proper sphere.

The key to the conference was struck by Mr. McDougall, who presided in Massey Hall on Sunday afternoon. He spoke from the text "Come ye after Me and I will make you fishers for men," showing that the spiritual equivalent of gain is not what we can get out of our profession for ourselves of money or honor but what we can do for others to help them to be the best they can for themselves and for the nation. This high ideal permeated the sessions, which were fitly concluded by a masterly address by Dr. James W. Robertson, showing in a practical manner how this service can be performed, the qualifications for leadership and the final reward.

THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM.

Conference week was a strenuous one. It was a feast of fat things. Each address was delivered by a specialist in his department, who gave us the cream of his experience in a practical manner, showing how such knowledge could be applied to our school work, to the extension of agriculture knowledge. The sessions were presided over by Prof. McCready who was the moving spirit of the conference. We followed Prof. McCready all over the campus, drinking in practical wisdom and many ethical qualities as well. He led us through the experimental plots, and while Prof. Zavits, acting as president, explained the processes by which the best varieties of grain and roots can be obtained and which varieties they had proved to be the best, Prof. McCready focused his camera. He led us to the dairy and to the poultry and we inspected these buildings. He gave us a splendid object lesson on school gardening by explaining the school plots at the Macdonald Consolidated School; also the plots worked by the Macdonald Institute students.

Besides the lectures by several agricultural experts, specialists in education in themselves were treated to two lectures by Rev. Dr. McDougall, author of "Rural Life in Canada," the subjects being "Ontario's Rural Problem" and "Rural Reconstruction." He gave facts and figures showing the rapid rural depopulation, reasons leading to this deplorable condition, and named some remedies. Some causes for this depopulation are: First, the home question; the farm must be made to produce more, and can be made to support a much larger population, as has been proved by other countries—Denmark as an example; second, we are training our children away from

the farm. Our schools pass the children on to the high school and the minority only return to the farm. Our schools, churches, and all institutions are to blame. We need rural reconstruction. This must be begun by proper teaching in our public schools, educating children to make the farm a success and to stay with it.

A LESSON FROM OLDER LANDS.

Mr. H. W. Foght, specialist in rural education, Bureau of Education, Washington, D.C., came from Wisconsin to give us a vision. His two superb addresses on "Schools Which Have Made Denmark Famous" and "The Coming of the New Farm School," were alone well worth coming to the conference to hear. He is a self-contained, sympathetic, successful speaker, and he feelingly told Denmark's story—how little Denmark found herself on the verge of ruin, really gone, country impoverished, and being devastated by the depredations of the sea, and the deforesting of the land. But brave hearts and clear heads solved the problem, saw an ideal, and working for its realization, have produced a new Denmark—prosperous, contented, intellectual, and happy. His lectures were illustrated by lantern slides showing the before and after of the reforesting. Picture after picture was thrown upon the screen showing the folk schools, with the teacher's residence—for the permanent teacher builds up the school, and is a strong force in the community—the beautiful surroundings, the folk high schools, and the splendid specimens of manhood and womanhood produced, till Denmark stands as a model of reconstruction. There are but two things to be learned from things provided. After Dr. McDougall's strong, forceful talks, and Mr. Foght's wonderful addresses, we were treated to similar subjects in a lighter spirit, but not the less forceful. Miss Jessie Field, known to the North American as "The Corn Lady," gave two very interesting, helpful and heartily addresses. Her subjects were "How a Country Teacher can give Thoughtful Leadership" and "Giving the Country Girl Her Chance." A country teacher can do anything in a community, if she only loves the people.

DR. JAS. W. ROBERTSON SPEAKS.

On Friday, the last day of the conference, we listened to two addresses by Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, chairman of the Royal Commission on Technical Education. His subjects were "Education for Rural Communities" and "The Spirit of the School." With the utmost candor Dr. Robertson said us some very uncompromising things. He said that our boasted school system is inferior to that of some other countries. He says we have dirt farms, and even hinted that farmers might be cleaner, bath often, and for their teeth, etc. The teacher should have physical vigor, mental capacity, and emotional heights, and be an ideal for the pupils. That we need more intelligent, organized people more working with the hands, less sitting still over books, was a point that was never over and over again.

The making of school grades, holding school fairs, organizing school progress clubs, etc., were described by different teachers. The germ is conspicuous. It will spread. A perfect network of inoculated teachers is scattered all over the province, and from these others will come infected till agricultural education will be a touch in our schools, and the cry will cease to be "Back to the Land," but "We are on the Land to stay." It will take time, but the fruits of this conference will without fail be felt for good in Ontario.



W. Wilson

Trade Increases

Vol. XXXIII.

CANADA is at the all the she will have to our awful burden of peace that we all what war means. The first week of the music in our business here is cooling. down hard on all show more confidence and to give legitimate assistance. We survey the situation, at least, for position of the Canadian Looking at the situation on trade may not extend by the made with the great Europe is cut off, the greater part of our Kingdom and the United Kingdom the year end of the following value countries: The British Empire (United Kingdom) The United Kingdom The United States ? Germany ? Holland ? France ? Russia ? Spain ? Italy ? Austria ?

Grand total of Canadian with the United Kingdom are still free to trade with the world. The Atlantic trade—the first control the sea. The situation from Canadian a few German cruises has already caused shipping. German ships completely. But such far. At time of war have been detained, and there is a export circles.

EUROPEAN The British market is drawn largely on Russia, has a more recently of the Russian government