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## Improving Boys' and Girls' Club Work

What This Year's Experience at Dauphin, Man., Has Taught

"The entry lists and the number of youngsters interested in the boys' and girls' clubs in this district could be tripled," declared R. M. McCaul, bank manager and organizer of the boys' and girls' clubs in the Dauphin, Man., district, as we talked over boys' and girls' club affairs at the fair held there recently.

"We should have a district representative in this community so that interest can be kept up in the work of the boys' and girls' clubs, then another year the show might be three times as big as it is today. A district representative could visit the boys and girls in their homes, could visit their schools during the summer and in the winter as well, pointing out to them the advantages of becoming identified with the boys' and girls' club movement and also of the advantages to be gained by being a member of the club.

"The youngsters ask many technical questions," continued Mr. McCaul, "and one like myself, unfamiliar with agricultural conditions and agricultural technique, is at a loss at times to answer these perplexing questions, which are of vital importance to the youngsters themselves and to the agricultural industry generally. By having a district representative for this section of the province, I am sure that these questions would not go unanswered and the youngsters would, therefore, become much better informed as to the agricultural requirements of the day. If the agricultural instructor or county agent could visit the schools he could do a great deal in helping the teachers in furthering this work.

### Work Could Be Enlarged

Mr. McCaul is probably one of the most successful boys' and girls' club organizers in Manitoba. No less than 891 entries were received for the boys' and girls' club fair which was held in Dauphin on October 5. That this large entry list was due in no small way to the untiring efforts of Mr. McCaul goes without saying.

Mr. McCaul on many occasions during the summer visited the youngsters at their schools, talked to them about the club movement, told them what had been planned and what the organizers and those at the head of the club had planned for them in the way of a fair. This work, Mr. McCaul believes, could be enlarged considerably. By the organizers visiting the youngsters in the schools, and also during the summer in their homes and talking to their parents, the interest could be increased three and four and five fold. He points out that by visiting more points and districts in that particular section of the province that interest could be increased very materially. The organizers should have occasion to visit Ethelbert, Makinak, O. or other St. Rose du Lac and number of places adjacent to the town of Dauphin.

One of the features of the show, Mr. McCaul points out, is the co-operation between the town and the country in making it a success. This was admirably done at the Dauphin fair when sports were run off between the various schools and between the youngsters from the town and those from the country. Games between the country and town boys evinced no little interest, and are bound to arouse a spirit of good fellowship and friendliness which is of inestimable value in cementing the true rural spirit with that of the town.

### Help Stamp Out Weeds

Mr. McCaul believes, and rightly so, that the boys and girls should be encouraged to stamp out the noxious weed evil, and to further this idea, during his visits to the rural schools he emphasized this fact. The result of this was that at the fair there was quite an exhibit of

noxious weeds, and the young people by gathering these weed pests are becoming familiar with the various kinds of noxious weeds and will be able to eradicate this nuisance in the future. This alone is well worth the effort expended in the boys' and girls' club movement.

In pointing out what makes a club a success, Mr. McCaul referred to the co-operation which has been forthcoming from the teachers themselves and which has done not a little in furthering the movement. The teachers, he declared, should be encouraged in every possible way to make known the boys' and girls' clubs and what they stand for to the young people. This can be done by the organizer visiting the teacher and by calling district meetings from time to time. He pointed out, however, that as the teachers change in some schools every term, this was quite a difficulty, but that by district conferences probably the interest could be kept up and no school allowed to lag behind in any way due to any change of teachers.

During the summer Mr. McCaul visited the schools in the rural districts twice, pointing out to the boys and girls what the organizers had planned for the fair which was to be held in October. If these shows had a stimulating effect and spurred the young people on to a greater effort and showed that the movement was being fostered by the town people as well as those in the country, it would make for a better Western Canadian spirit.

At the fair large numbers of farmers and their wives were in attendance and encouraged the young people to examine all the exhibits. This alone is well worth the work of organization and the carrying on of the movement during the entire year. By the parents becoming interested in what their children are doing, they themselves can learn a great deal, and in this way both the parents and child are made better farmers and better citizens of the rural communities in which they reside.

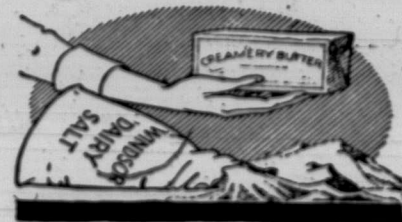
As is the case in several districts in Manitoba, those who purchased pigs from the farmers in that particular district borrowed the money from the bank. The boys and girls signed their own notes and when given the \$10 bought the pigs where they thought best and made as good a dickie as they could. At the end of the season nearly every boy and girl was at the bank to pay his note before maturity, and not in one case was any note allowed to run over the time. Mr. McCaul only hopes that the elders would learn a lesson from the young people in attending to their financial obligations in paying their notes promptly.

This is a feature which is teaching the boys and girls good business and particularly the nature of financial obligations, which oftentimes are left neglected by farmers in Western Canada.

Mr. McCaul's success with the boys' and girls' club in Dauphin he attributes to the fact that they made an early start and that a prize list was prepared early in the year and circulated. The visits he made to the schools were also a factor in stimulating the interest. While Mr. McCaul hesitates to take any of the credit for the success of the show to himself, nevertheless everyone in the district admits that he is responsible in a large degree for the success which has attended this movement.

W. E. McTAGGART.

As the regiment was leaving and a crowd cheering, a recruit asked: "Who are all these people who are cheering?" "They," replied the veteran, "are the people who are not going."



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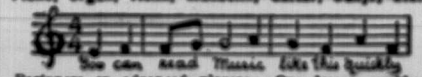
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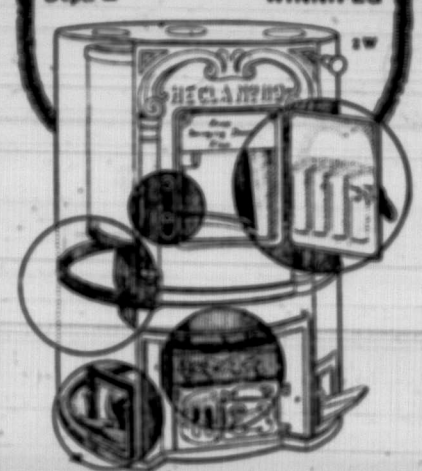
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