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## Our School Department.

### The Rural School as a Community Centre.

BY A FARMER'S WIFE AND FORMER  
TEACHER.

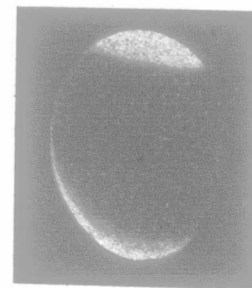
The days of the little log schoolhouse are past and soon, too, will be those of the little school, white, red, green or any other color. The time is fast approaching when every section will boast a spacious, modern and completely-equipped building which will mean more to the community than a place for housing teacher and pupils for the purpose of studying the three R's.

If we are to carry out these new ideals for improving social life in rural districts do we not need some such building? True, the church has its part in this but it cannot do all; for there must be some place for business, agricultural and educational meetings. Every section must have a schoolhouse so why not plan it to serve this double purpose? Then, when literary societies, night classes, women's institutes or farmer's clubs wish to meet you have a comfortable and attractive room. Provided with a good library and a piano, the young people will meet here instead of finding some way to get to the town or city for entertainment.

Every factor of the "city life" which so attracts the youth in suburban districts may be brought right here. Prominent speakers will be glad to come for an evening and address an appreciative audience on "worth-while" topics. Instructive debates, good moving pictures and excellent musical talent will so occupy their time and attention that they will be loath to miss any of these meetings. The school garden, too, which should claim the interest of every parent, may be made a great source of pleasure to all, as well as its inestimable benefit to the children, by making the school-fair an annual event.

### Candling Eggs.

Incubators will soon be warmed up and it will not be long before hens will be setting, so a study of eggs and some experience in candling is now seasonable. If there is no tester at the school, it might be well to write at once to the Live Stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and obtain a tester. These are made of cardboard; they can be used with the ordinary lamp, and they are sent free on request. Testing should be done in a dark room, as the interior part of the egg is more plainly visible when the only light thrown on it comes from the lamp within the tester.



Fertile Egg as Seen Through Tester,  
Seventh Day.

Practice on some new-laid eggs first, and become acquainted with the appearance of a perfectly normal egg. However, for school purposes it would be well to make observations with a partly incubated egg along with the good ones.

It will, of course, be more interesting to test eggs from under the hens, or from an incubator. Usually incubator eggs are tested after the seventh day, and the infertile ones are then taken away. Around the seventh day a fertile egg will reveal a clouded spot, such as is shown in the illustration accompanying this article; an infertile egg will be clear, but the yolk may throw a light shadow. It would be worth while to have a hen set just to furnish eggs for school testing. A porch or closet could be fitted up for this work and an egg taken from the nest every day and candled at school would show the development throughout the incubation period. Surely some one

philanthropic enough to donate a nest full of eggs could be found in every section.



A New-laid Egg.

### Seed for the School Garden.

Vegetables are grown in many school gardens, and as it is now time that the garden was being planned we are publishing the following recommendations regarding the amounts of seed required.

Asparagus.—1 oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Beans.—1 pint to 100 ft. of drill.  
Beets.—1 oz. to 50 ft. of row.  
Brussels sprouts.— $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 100 ft.  
Cabbage.—1 oz. to 300 ft. of drill.  
Carrot.— $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Cauliflower.—1 oz. to 2,500 plants.  
Celery.— $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. per 100 ft. of drill.  
Corn.— $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint to 100 hills.  
Cucumbers.—1 to 2 ozs. to 100 hills.  
Egg plant.—1 oz. produces 2,000 plants.  
Endive.— $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Kale.—1 oz. to 300 ft. of drill.  
Kohl-rabi.—1 oz. to 300 ft. of drill.  
Leek.—1 oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Lettuce.— $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Melons (musk).—2 ozs. per 100 hills, 4 x 4 ft.  
Onion.— $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Onion sets.—1 quart to 50 ft. of drill.  
Parsley.— $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Peas.—1 to 2 pints to 100 ft. of drill.  
Peppers.—1 oz. produces 1,500 plants.  
Radish.—1 oz. to 100 ft. row.  
Rhubarb.—1 oz. seed to 125 ft. of drill.  
Salsify.—1 oz. seed to 100 ft. of drill.  
Spinach.—1 oz. to 100 ft. of drill.  
Squash.—8 ozs. to 100 hills.  
Tomato.—1 oz. produces 2,000 to 2,500 plants.  
Turnip.—1 oz. to 200 ft. of drill.

### A Study of the Oat.

So far as the farmer is concerned there are two parts of the oat which should be given serious consideration. The hull is no better than oat straw for feeding purposes, so an oat which has a large percentage of hull is not a profitable kind to grow, even if it does yield heavily. Practically all the feeding value is in the oat kernel wrapped up inside the hull, and a good oat has a large kernel but a thin hull. Some varieties are said to be thin-hulled, for they have in the neighborhood of 75 per cent. kernel and, of course, around 25 per cent. hull. There are oats which have a smaller percentage of hull, and still others have 35 per cent. or more.

As a general thing, side oats—that is, varieties where the oats hang on the side of the stem—are thick hulled, while those with a panicle or spreading head are more likely to be thin hulled. Banner and O. A. C. No. 72 will average around 27 to 30 per cent. hull, yet they possess many good qualities not found in thinner-hulled oats.

The straw should be considered when selecting a variety of oats to sow, because some varieties have a weak straw and the crop will lodge. This is a matter which cannot be studied in the school-room, but pupils might bring samples of oats grown on their own farms, and compare them with their neighbor's. There are many things to take into consideration when selecting a variety of oats. We have named a few; can you suggest others?