

two years of

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the experiment.
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sulphate of am-
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lot 3 received
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Plot 1 (no fer-
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beneficial effects
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being given as a top-dressing at the time of thinning.

I was really surprised at the rapid and healthy growth of the fertilized plots, more particularly the one with the potash, which was distinctly the best. The mangels were sown very late, otherwise the yields might have been larger. However, I secured first prize at Oakville Fair on mangels taken from the potash plot. Next year I mean to note the continued effects, if any, of the fertilizer on the next crop. I am fully convinced of the value of fertilizers, when intelligently used, and understand why so many farmers are now applying them to their hoed crops.

Halton Co., Ont.

JOHN A. RIGGS.

A County Carleton Village School

Some eight years ago, in order to promote a greater interest in Agriculture, Sir Wm. C. MacDonald donated sufficient money to purchase land for the purpose of establishing School Gardens. Three of these are in the County of Carleton, Ont., one in Carp, one in Bowesville, and one in North Gower Village. For three years Mr. Gibson, now one of the Ottawa Normal School staff, managed these gardens with the children. Mr. Gibson also gave lessons in the school-room in Agriculture. W. Pettapiece, then Principal of North Gower Public School and a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, carried on the work begun by Mr. Gibson in North Gower. Mr. Pettapiece, in order to encourage the pupils with their work, exhibited flowers and vegetables at the county fair held in Richmond.

North Gower School Garden is prettily situated at the foot of a hill on the north side of the village. The village is on the banks of St. Steven's Creek, which winds through it and flows into the Rideau River at Kars, the nearest shipping point about four miles from the village. Pretty red bridges, with driveways and footpaths cross the creek. North Gower School Garden contains two acres. Part of this is used as a play ground. Quite a large piece has been cultivated. This year about one-tenth of an acre was considered enough for experimenting with vegetables, fruits, and flowers. On the south side of the garden there is a small orchard containing apple and plum trees. At the rear, and also along one side, a row of balsams are growing. A variety of trees, many of which are doing well, was planted along the other sides. There is a tool-house at the center, to the back. Leading to it is a path bordered with irises of various color. Those flowers are one of the pleasing features of the garden, for they never fail. On both sides of this perennial border are some large plots and more smaller ones. The larger plots are worked by the older pupils singly or in pairs, or by the smaller pupils in groups. Even the little tots have a share in the work. If they cannot handle a hoe or a rake, they can use a small weed-rake. In the spring the School Board hire a man to delve the plots and fertilize the land. The scholars then prepare the soil for the seeds or plants to be transplanted from the hot-bed. The seeds are supplied by the School Board. The pupils easily get sale for what vegetables they raise; in fact, the supply does not meet the demand.

This year, besides cultivating the more common vegetables, the pupils tried to raise water-melons and peanuts. Both of these were a failure. The peanuts were sown too early and the cold and wet weather killed them. The water-melons did well in the hot-bed, but after transplanting they were slow of growth. The vines grew well by fall, but the fruit was rather scarce and small. Some of the children evidently were in too great haste to see what the fruit tasted like! The pupils in charge of the hot-bed sell any plants not needed for the garden. Money thus made by the garden belongs to them. Thus by failures, as well as by successes, the pupils learn. When one of the pupils is appointed superintendent of the plots or paths, it relieves the teacher of a great deal of overseeing.

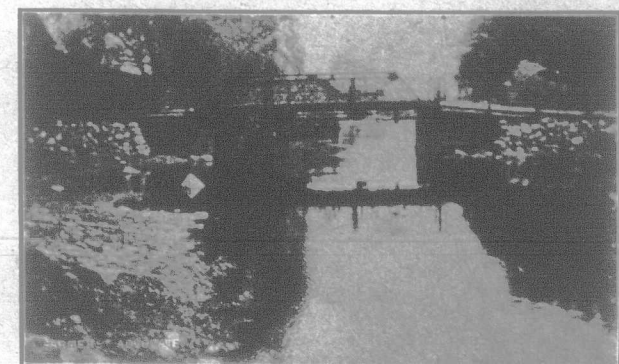
Between the flower-and-vegetable garden and the orchard is a garden seat built about a large oak tree, presumably "for talking age and whispering lovers made." At the front of the garden, on both sides of the path, are two large flower beds. Early in spring crocus and tulips bloom here. Later, tall, hardy perennials blossom. On the north side of this path of flowers and vegetables are nurseries of evergreens, white pine, Scotch pine and red cedar, also a clump of deciduous trees. These the pupils may take home for their lawns or farms. Down the center of the play-ground is an evergreen hedge. Part of this hedge is now destroyed, as there is about completed on this ground a white cement four-roomed school-house, bright and commodious.

In writing the "Farmer's Advocate" regarding the interesting school-work being accomplished at North Gower, Miss Christine Cameron makes the following most encouraging comment: "Teaching agriculture and gardening increases the work of

the school. Both pupils and teacher are the better for it physically, mentally and spiritually. Neither the earthworm nor the toad is spurned nor 'cast as rubbish to the void.' Pupils learn to respect God's creatures. It makes the pupils broader-minded, gives them a larger view-point. It enables them to be better citizens."

An hour a week is given for lessons in agriculture in the Public School. During seeding and weeding times this time will be spent in the garden. Besides learning fruits, vegetables and flowers, the children learn the names of the weeds and grasses. During the holidays this year, the latter flourished in quantity, size and variety! The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, kindly aided the school in naming the strangest of them last fall.

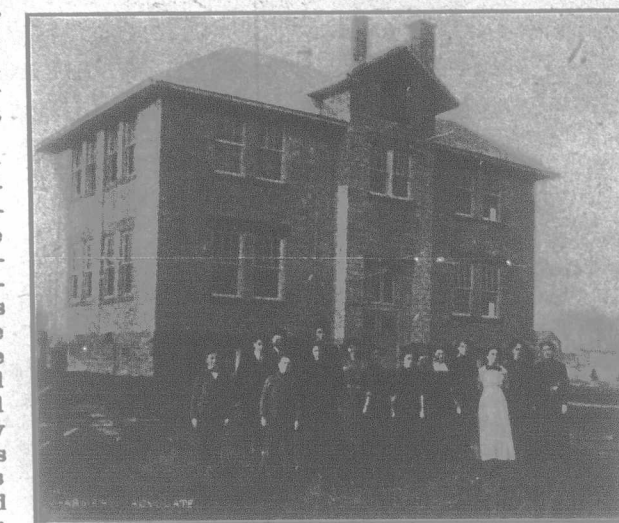
Back of the school-house is a lawn-tennis court. The people of this community believe that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull



A Bit of North Gower Scenery.



North Gower Public School Pupils in Garden.



New White Cement School, North Gower, Ont.
Continuation class and teacher in front.

boy." A Lawn-Tennis Club was organized last spring. The members of the School Board were among the first to join. A small fee is charged the pupils wishing to become members. During school hours and after six o'clock outside members may use the court. Pupils who are members may use it any of their spare time. Outside members are charged a larger fee. On the opposite some of the boys played football or baseball. Here, too, in the evening the young men played games. Next summer it is expected that football will be played across the street in the old school lawn, which is surrounded on three sides by beautiful large sugar-maple trees.

The Continuation Classes of this school were begun about six years ago. Miss Craig taught those classes until Easter of this year. Then Miss Calendar, a graduate of the school and an

undergraduate of Queen's University, taught until the summer holidays. The present teacher is Miss Taylor, of New York City, a graduate of Queen's. Of the graduates of this school, not a few have become successful teachers, who, in turn, will do their share in quickening a love for agriculture.

The past fall the Continuation Literary Society was organized. The School Board and local clergymen were made honorary members. The society meets every Friday at 3 p.m. After the business part of the meeting comes the program, consisting of debates or original matter of a literary nature contributed by the pupils. Ladies and gentlemen interested are invited from time to time to be present at the meetings to encourage the pupils in their work and to act as judges of the debates. The society has not only chosen its colors (black and gold), but it has also composed its song.

Seed Growers' at the Winter Fair.

Prof. Zavitz, in a few opening remarks as chairman of the largely attended meeting of the Seed Growers' Association in connection with the Winter Fair at Guelph, pointed out that the object of the meeting was to bring growers together to compare notes, as many of those present would not be privileged to attend the annual meeting to be held in Ottawa in February.

A paper by Wm. Lewis, Dunsford, Ont., giving five years' experience in seed improvement, was the first number. He had profited by his experience and was able to sell his seed oats at from 80 cents to \$1.25 per bushel, and his registered barley at \$1.25 to \$1.50. No matter whether the season was wet or dry, selected seed had done better for him than unselected or ordinary fanning-mill seed. One of his greatest difficulties in keeping his grain clean and pure and preventing weeds from gaining a foothold on his farm was that of getting a clean threshing machine to do his threshing. The average machine going the rounds is a distributor of all kinds of noxious weed pests.

Charles Pearce, of Wellington, not being able to be present, sent in a short paper describing his method of planting and cultivating potatoes. He uses the corn marker one way, so that his hills are in rows each way and can be cultivated in either direction desired. Nearly all the work of cultivation is done with the cultivator.

A. S. Maynard, commenting on the method, said that he liked to put 12 to 18 loads of stable manure on clover sod in the autumn and plow it in either the fall or spring before planting.

In reply to a question on fertilizers, Alf Hutchinson stated that ten pounds phosphate and five pounds potash had given him marked results.

"The Choice of Foundation Stock and its Importance" was the subject well handled by Fred Foyston, Minnesing, Ont., in which he referred to the good work of Prof. Zavitz in giving to the people such splendid varieties as O.A.C. No. 21 barley and No. 72 oats. He believed that the greatest good could be done if the seed produced were sold at a moderate price.

Dr. Chas. Saunders, Cerealist, at the C. E. Farm, Ottawa, discussed a few of the crops which he has been instrumental in introducing, as the heavy-yielding Marquis wheat also the Prelude wheat, a very early and hard variety for Northern districts. A new pea has been introduced—Arthur by name—productive and early, a promising variety.

L. D. Hankinson discussed high-class seed corn production in Western Ontario, a fuller report of which is given elsewhere.

W. J. Lennox, representative of the Dominion Seed Branch, gave some of his observations in connection with the work of inspection of the members' field plots. He found the growers very enthusiastic and satisfied that they were able to increase their yields very much by using improved seed. He found more members improving corn than any other crop.

T. G. Raynor, representative of the Seed Branch for Eastern Ontario, gave some of his impressions of the work as a result of seven years' experience. There are not as many pursuing the work in Eastern as in Western Ontario, but quite a number are now considering its advantages and will probably take it up. He claimed that where the members had produced good seed and got it on the market, it recommended itself and the buyers came back for more.