



FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME



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Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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Better Education for Rural School Children

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The People of at Least one Section of Rural Ontario have Solved the Educational Problem to Their Own Satisfaction.—The Story of the Consolidated School at Tamworth, Ont.

IN 1911 the trustees of school section number six of the township of Sheffield, Ont., decided to build a new school. They had an old frame building that had long ago refused to shut out the winter storms, and the appearance of which was not calculated to inspire any aesthetic emotions in the pupils. S. S. No. 6 comprised the farming district that lay to the north of the little village of Tamworth, and about three-quarters of that village. The rest of the village and the farming community to the south was No. 3 Sheffield, which was united with No. 28 of Camden, a very small section along its southern boundary.

No. 6 had two teachers and about 80 pupils, but the section, though the richest in the township, was a comparatively poor one when compared with more favorably situated parts of the province. It had an assessed value of about \$118,000. S. S. No. 6 proposed to S. S. No. 3 the union or consolidation of the sections, and the building of a modern schoolhouse. No. 3 had already a neat and rather pretty one-room brick building where about 40 pupils assembled daily. They did not feel at the need of a new building, not even for the sake of having a continuation school, as had been proposed. The cost of building and maintaining such a structure as was planned was too much for No. 6 to consider alone, but they were determined not to be beaten, so they offered to build a \$10,000 structure and make it the property of the consolidated sections if No. 3 would share the expense of maintenance with them. The citizens of both school sections under the leadership of Mr. A. B. Carscallen, a merchant of Tamworth, subscribed voluntarily \$3,000, and debentures were issued by No. 6 for \$7,000.

THE NEW BUILDING

The school building was completed early in 1912. It was situated on the boundary line between the two sections. The building is of brick, two storeys high, and with large halls that are used as play rooms by the pupils when the weather is so inclement that they cannot go out of doors. The continuation pupils occupy the upper floor and have two classrooms and a science room. The latter is equipped with modern apparatus and specimens which are being added from time to time. The pupils of the ele-

mentary school occupy the ground floor, and the basement is given over to furnace rooms, large play rooms, and indoor closets. The total attendance is 150, with an average attendance of about 120, and it is pleasing to notice that although pupils are further from the school the attendance is more regular than in pre-consolidation days when the average attendance at the two schools was only 80.

The problem of transportation of pupils which

advanced stage of rural schools, and its promoters have thought that it would fill some long-felt wants that the ordinary rural school has failed to do.

In this perhaps the Tamworth school has not as yet measured up to the possibilities, and yet it has made a beginning. It provides pupils with instruction under trained teachers. In the township of Sheffield there are only two other schools out of a total of 14 that are in charge of teachers with permanent certificates. Nearly all are manned by untrained and inexperienced boys and girls, who make some interesting efforts to do what they have never been shown how to do. The Tamworth Consolidated

School has four teachers with permanent certificates and experience in various grades of schools, and this is in itself a great boon to the district.

The consolidated school should also recognize the value of play for physical and moral development and the value of the subject known as agriculture as a method of teaching. In the former this school has made some beginning. It has a basketball court for the girls and a baseball diamond for the boys. In the summer each teacher spends seven 15 minute periods per week on the playground in addition to three 25-minute periods spent in systematic drill out-of-doors. In the dull periods the girls and the younger boys take the exercises prescribed by the Strathcona Trust, and the boys have an organized cadet corps. In the latter the boys are intensely interested. They spent a week in camp at Barriefield last summer, arranged for regular classes in semaphore signalling this winter.

and brought to Tamworth two speakers for public lectures, the speakers being no less persons than Dr. Jas. L. Hughes and Professor MacCreedy.

The value of systematic drill and supervised play can scarcely be overestimated, and the principal gives unstinted praise to the work of his staff in this direction. In one direction alone—the use of profanity—there has been a transformation to such an extent that instead of a continual usage, it is now rarely heard. In the winter months an agreement was entered into with the proprietor of the skating rink for the use of the rink for the school.

In the line of agriculture, nothing has been done as yet except to teach arithmetical principles
(Concluded on page 9)



One of the Few Consolidated Schools in Ontario

This modern school building serves several school sections in and around Tamworth, Ont., which formerly had small schools of their own. The people are well satisfied with the new arrangement, which is described by the principal, Mr. J. R. Pickering, in the article adjoining.

confronted the trustees of the consolidated schools at Guelph and New Liskeard has given no difficulty at Tamworth. With the exception of some continuation pupils who come from other sections and the board in the vicinity of the school, no pupil lives farther than three miles from the school and only three or four families farther than ten miles. In the summer the pupils usually walk to school and in the winter the parents along each road cooperate and drive them in big wood sleighs, each parent making one or two trips per week. This proves no burden to the parents, as they do their shopping at the local stores at the same time. This matter is not supervised by the School Board.

WHAT CONSOLIDATION ACCOMPLISHES

A consolidated school is looked to as an ad-