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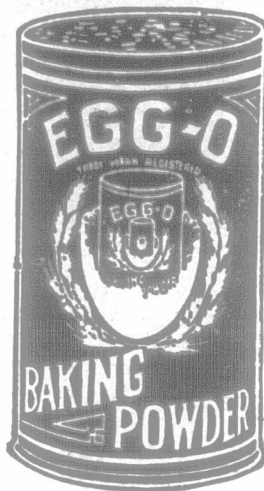
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Our School Department.

The Flowers in April.

A Lesson Plan.

Aim: To interest the children in the first flowers in blossom, and to have them notice particularly the appearance of the willow "pussies," that they may love the beauties of Nature more.

Materials: Branches of the two kinds of pussy willows. Specimens of the dandelion, dog's-tooth violet, hepatica, spring beauty and any flower that may be in blossom.

Method: 1. Ask questions, e. g., What pretty thing or things did you see on your way to school? Have you seen any wild flowers this spring? Where did you see them? Have you seen any on trees? Tell me about those flowers you have seen. Wouldn't you like to learn something about them? Let us learn what we can about April flowers, especially about pussy willows.

2. Let us first look at some pretty flowers that grow near the ground. Let us take the dog's-tooth violet. What color is it? How big is it? Has it any perfume? Where do you find it? Look at other pretty flowers. Ask similar questions about the hepatica, the dandelion, the spring beauty and other flowers. Have you ever noticed these hanging clusters on trees? Why, do you think, is each called a "pussy"? Does a pussy look like a flower? How does this resemble a pussy? How is it protected? There are two kinds of pussy willows. Let us see the difference between them. They grow on different bushes. Have you ever run a pussy willow through your fingers? Let us all do this. What do you notice? Do you get this yellow dust, which is called pollen, off them all? What do some of the pussy willows contain? Do you find that they all contain seeds? If not, which kind does, the one which contains the pollen or the other? On what do pussies grow?

3. Compare the colors and perfumes of early spring flowers with later flowers. Which do you like better? Why? Compare the "pussy" of the willow with "pussies" on other trees. Which is prettiest?

4. Where do you find pussy willows? How can you tell the difference between the two kinds? Of what are pussies made? Of what use are pussies? When are they called pussies? What kinds of trees bear pussies?

5. Gather some pussy willows and place them in water. See what will happen. Gather some wild flowers and make your homes bright with them.

6. Draw a picture of the pussy willow. Read poems and stories about the pussy willow and other spring flowers.

The above lesson plan is from Nature-Study Lessons by Dr. D. W. Hamilton.

Games, Play and Recreation.

A. MACLAREN, B. S. A.

Have you ever tried the game of picking out the different kinds of men, women, boys and girls that you know and putting them in different groups according to their natures? If you have not, try it some time.

There's the man we call "Old Grouch." If your ball flies over into his garden he comes out growling and grumbling and captures your ball and keeps it. He never smiles to the boys as they pass by. "Boys and girls are only a nuisance," he says, "they spend too much time with fun and frolic and never attempt anything useful," and so he goes through this world with a frown on his face, envy in his heart and no joy in life.

Then there's the boy who loafs around the store at the village and does nothing. He is too lazy. He doesn't want to bother. Games, such as football or hockey are too strenuous and tiring, and so he loafs, and later becomes a waster and maybe a criminal.

Then there is the timid little fellow who, when some game is on, sits or stands around watching it instead of getting into the game and developing courage and the ability to do things himself.

There's another kind of boy—the kind none of us like—the "quitter." He

starts in with the rest, all enthusiasm and energy, and all goes well until the job gets a little bit hard or things in the game do not come his way, and then he says, "Aw! I've had enough—let's play something else."

Then there's the fellow we all love—big, strong, hearty, always a smile on his face, ready to lead in any kind of fun or games, great at swimming, skating, hockey, football, baseball, one who always leads in everything good or bad. He has his faults, but we like him all the same. Why? Because he does things. He's the kind of fellow who, when the umpire gives a "raw" decision and the team begins to howl, says, "Come on, fellows, let's play the game." You never hear him talk back, no matter what happens.

And so we can discover a great many kinds of people in this world. What kind do you belong to? Are you satisfied to stay in that class or do you want to get into another class? It depends on you.

I want to tell you, if I can, how these different kinds of people have come into being. They are what they are either because they have learned to play games honestly, fairly, squarely, or they have never played games at all.

The "old grouch" is an old grouch because he never developed his stock and surplus of energy and happiness in playing games, and so he lost God's greatest gift, the spirit of play, in which we should do all our work. The farmer who suspects everybody of cheating him has never learned to play his place in the ball team. He never learned what it is to make a sacrifice hit, to play so that the team would win whether he got any individual glory or not, so he can never be a co-operator.

Then the loafer never felt the joy of overflowing physical power as you run the bases or dribble the football up the field, dodging all comers, and so he has allowed his physical powers to go to sleep from which there is no awakening.

And that timid little fellow. Through no fault of his own he has not the courage to face the hard tasks of life. Do you want to help him have the courage to do great things in life? Then encourage him to come into your games. Don't laugh at his awkwardness too much. Remember! He needs the games.

And the "quitter," what about him? Well, don't let him in on anything unless he promises to carry it through. If he fails, then shut him out the next time until he learns to persevere.

We all want to be like the big, hearty, strong leader. Perhaps we can't all be such men and women but we can all get a whole lot nearer to it than we are now. You want to know how, don't you? Well, it's quite simple. Get into games and play them with all your might, honestly, fairly, behind the umpire's back or before his face; stick to the game till the end, help the more timid ones and enjoy it to the full yourself.

The Community and the School.

The success and efficiency of any school does not depend solely on the teacher and the equipment placed at his or her disposal; there must be a strong community spirit standing solidly behind the school. The parents and rate-payers must consider it their school, and stand ready to defend rather than condemn it. The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations endorse the following ideal:

The Community—Forward-looking, not fearful of nor indifferent to reform; recognizing its children as its greatest possession; interested in and proud of its schools; visiting the school frequently and attending its annual school meeting in large numbers; realizing charges for education as an investment and not an expense; supporting teachers by sympathy and moral backing, and not weakening their influence by unfair criticism and its listening to tales; protecting itself and its children from unwholesome social influences that might undo the work of the school, by liberally supporting the work of the Church, the Sunday School and other moral agencies.