

Rural Leaders Attend Summer School

Men and Women Engaged in Rural Work Assemble at the O. A. C., Guelph, for Two Weeks' Instruction

INSPIRING addresses and pleasant associations among the rural leaders, made the second annual session of the School for Rural Leadership held at the O. A. C., Guelph, from July 3 to 15, one of pleasure and profit to those who took advantage of it. Although the attendance was not large, the enthusiasm ran high. One of the pleasing features of the school was the learning and playing of games during the recreation period. Volley ball became very popular. A series of games in indoor baseball, tennis and bowling was carried through, these being participated in by many of the school teachers, who were at that time attending their summer short course. The lecture program was contributed by Prof. Edwin L. Earp, Professor of Sociology, Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, N.J.; E. W. Murchie, Lecturer of Rural Sociology in the Manitoba Agricultural College; A. MacLaren, Student Y.M.C.A. Secretary of the O.A.C.; George R. Harcourt, Geo. E. Hey and H. H. Dean of the College staff. Miss Gardiner, the college librarian gave an interesting lecture on stories and story telling to children.

It was a great pleasure to the members of the Summer School to know and listen to Professor Earp. A cultured Christian gentleman, well acquainted with his subject, with a pleasing address and a keen sense of humor, he won the hearts of all the class. In dealing with the rural social survey from the standpoint of the church, he outlined the method of procedure in making a survey, stating what it should include and showing how to chart the facts secured. He especially emphasized that a survey of any local community should get at all facts, should have a definite purpose in view and should result in some definite plan of work. A social survey involves effort in community building.

Prof. Earp next spoke of the training of rural ministers. The men already on the field needed to visualize their task. Short courses in Agriculture, Summer Schools and Conferences would help them to do this. For the men in colleges, who are preparing for the ministry there should be courses on Rural Sociology and on Rural social organization and engineering. The Professor then took up the cooperation and federation of rural churches, the church as a community centre, and the social centre parish plan. He emphasized the thought that the church should stand for attractive forces in the community and should exist for the sake of the community and not merely for itself. The emphasis was no longer placed on the saving of the individual but also on the saving of the community. The church should seek to give a religious significance to all the legitimate forms of social service in the community. The old circuit system was of great service in the pioneer period, but changed conditions demanded changed methods. The plan best suited was the circuit system or social centre parish plan. This plan would socialize the community in consciousness and in activity. The harnessing of rural social forces was the next step in the rural life movement. The end sought was closer cooperation and the development of a better type of community life.

Mr. Murchie in lecturing on the rural home showed that he had given considerable attention to the practical side of his subject. He first dealt with the matter of home conveniences and improvements. On little attention, he said, was given to home planning and the providing of labor sav-

ing devices in the home. Why did the farmer leave labor saving devices? To do a maximum of work with a minimum of time and energy. "A woman as working partner," said Mr. Murchie, "works longer hours than a man and provides equally with her husband for the comfort and efficiency of her family. Many women look old at 40 because they take needless steps, work with poor tools and do not see fair returns for money, time and energy spent. The husband will pay doctor's bills sooner than buy or make time savers, energy savers, for the household. In a rural home survey made in one of the best districts of Manitoba, out of 200 homes visited, 58 per cent. of the men had some labor saving devices and 23 per cent. were well equipped, while 14 per cent. of the women had labor saving devices and six per cent. were well equipped. The gasoline engine is a wife saver and a life saver. A water supply and drainage system including a septic tank are essential and may be had at moderate cost. Saving steps means saving time, strength and health." Mr. Murchie said that we don't need to have lives. We can have wealth, clean, ventilated homes surrounded by trees, flowers, vines and with a garden. All these things add to comfort and contentment and increase efficiency.

The relation of home and school and of home and church were also dealt with, and Mr. Murchie showed the need and suggested means of bringing these great community institutions closer together. He strongly advocated consolidated schools and showed how these would solve many of our difficulties. He favored the home garden for pupils rather than the school garden.

Secretary MacLaren in his usual energetic manner took up the question of rural recreation. He first gave a definition and then explained the functions of play. "Organized and directed play is the best method of physical training," said Mr. MacLaren. "Physical training is practically neglected in this country. Farm boys and girls may get sufficient recreation, but farm work does not necessarily mean physical training and all round development of the body. Play is more than physical in its function. It is mental, emotional, social, and moral, and has a great educational value. The character forming or moral functions of play are varied and far reaching. Properly directed play overcomes selfishness, strengthens the will, develops character, enthusiasm, honesty, a sense of justice, true sportsmanship and a high athletic ideal. It discourages profanity, idleness and the slightest sense of inferiority. The Canadian play life is the danger of the spectacular and the professional." Mr. MacLaren also gave a history of the playground movement in Germany, Britain and America and showed the need of play and playgrounds in rural districts and how to promote, equip and conduct them.—W. C.

Children in the Guelph Home

FARM AND DAIRY has received a letter from Secretary Amos Towell, of the Children's Aid Society, Guelph, Ont., in which he states that he has the following small children for whom he desires to secure good country homes: Twin boys, eight weeks of age; a baby girl, about five weeks of age; a baby boy three and one-half months old; and a baby girl about six weeks old. All these children are in good health. Any of Our Folks who wish to receive a small child, should write direct to Mr. Towell.



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