

pupil in our rural schools should receive. It therefore seems necessary, view it from what point we will, to establish at convenient places in our various rural municipalities, a class of secondary schools in which agriculture and kindred subjects pertaining to farm life should be recognized as the principal subjects of study. The following sketch was prepared for, and published in the *Live Stock Journal*, of Hamilton, by the present writer :—

“To make our meaning clear and prevent any possible misunderstanding as to the nature of these schools and the class of work to be done, it may be as well to explain more fully the following points. (1) Under whose management shall they be placed? (2) What shall be the length of each session? (3) What shall be the course of study? (4) How shall they be supported? It may be as well to state that we shall consider the two classes of schools, rural and urban separately, and shall proceed to answer these questions as they bear upon rural schools. Now in regard to the management, the writer would place these under the charge of township boards in municipalities where such boards exist, and in all other municipalities under the jurisdiction of the township councils. These boards or councils, as the case might be, should have power to use any schoolhouse in the municipality, or the township hall, for holding such school or schools. They should have power to determine the number of such schools, the location of them, the employment of properly qualified teachers, and furnishing the necessary equipment for the proper conduct of such schools. They should have authority to provide means to meet the necessary expenses, either by levying a rate on the assessable property, or by applying to the municipal council for the amount required. In regard to the length of the sessions, it must be borne in mind that these schools are intended for boys over 14 years of age and for young men, so that they will necessarily be winter schools, to be opened say about the 1st of November and closed about the 1st of May. This will enable these young people to attend an advanced school during the winter season, and leave them free to assist on the farm during the busy summer months. To anyone acquainted with farm life, especially in the older settlements, it is well-known that the great majority of young people have more leisure time during winter than they use with advantage to themselves or their friends. Now it is very desirable, and the writer believes, quite practicable, to utilize this time for mental improvement, and so far as his observation has gone, no more feasible plan has been proposed. It may be remarked further that these schools are to be opened each day at 10 a.m., and closed at 3 p.m., having four hour sessions, and thus leaving these young people free to do the chores around the farm, both before going to and after returning from school.

“The course of study should embrace the following subjects, viz:—

(1) The different kinds of soil; their formation and cultivation, together with the best means of improving each kind; the production