

prices are given by private parties. For instance last year the T. Eaton Company paid the expenses of 27 club members on a trip to Winnipeg and a week of instruction and entertainment at the Agricultural College. The Manitoba Swine Breeders' Association will provide a similar trip for the boy or girl who raises the best pair of pigs in each inspectorial division, provided there are not less than 36 contestants in the division.

The pig-raising contest is a very popular one. The boys entering this contest purchase one or two pigs, which they feed for market. A record is kept of the amount and cost of feed consumed, and in the fall the boy's work is scored on the basis of appearance, gain in weight, economy of gain, and the record card. It is insisted that the boy must own the pigs. A number of the banks in Manitoba are willing to lend money to bright boys and girls who are recommended to them by the teacher on the understanding that the money be paid back when the pigs are sold.

A calf-raising contest is conducted on similar lines, and the results are scored in the same way. Calves must be born between March 1st and June 1st, and the calf classes at many school fairs in Manitoba testify to the feeding ability of the junior farmers of the province. The poultry-raising contests are, of course, open to a greater number because of the small capital involved. The start in the spring is either made with hatching eggs or baby chicks, and here, too, the work of the young people is judged on the basis of the appearance of the chicks, and the record card showing number raised in comparison to the number hatched, cost of feeding, labor, etc.

#### Grain Growing Contests.

The one and five-acre grain contests require greater ability on the part of the contestants than do the other contests. These are planned especially for bright active boys who have been successful in minor contests in previous years, and are now willing to tackle a much larger undertaking. It is open to boys between 15 and 20 years of age, and they may grow either one acre or five acres of grain. Prizes are offered for the best plots judged shortly before cutting and for grain and straw grain exhibited at the local seed grain fair and at the provincial seed grain fair.

Other contests in which Manitoba children compete are the growing of a home garden, bread making, sewing, canning, the selection and naming of noxious weeds, churning, woodwork, and essay writing. Pupils are encouraged, however, to engage in not more than three or four contests at once.

This is a very brief survey of the work that is being conducted among the boys and girls of rural Manitoba. When we consider that through these contests almost 20,000 of the children of the province are being given a new and greater interest in the affairs of everyday life their influence for good must be enormous. The Department of Education is right in considering this junior club work one of their most important activities, as it has to do with the development of Manitoba's future citizens.

Sugar maple trees are a specially valuable asset to a farm this year. In the sugar maple season, the sap is high. There is money in maple sap, and beyond the work, it is practically all profit. You don't have to plough or harrow, or fertilize the ground for the maple harvest. You don't have to do any spring seedling, and you don't have to wait patiently from spring to fall. The maple season comes at a time when other farm work is slack. The trees require no spraying, pruning, fertilizing or watering. They stand, as a rule, on untillable or rocky land. The maple tree was a Godsend to Canada in the pioneer days. It is no less so now in the war scarcity of sugar.



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