

The Farm Boys' Camp

Sixty-two Junior C.S.G.A. Members assemble in Saskatoon—By Jno. M. Pratt

DURING the last few years government departments and higher educational institutions have been placing more and more stress upon early agricultural training, working with boys and girls of 'teen ages. In Saskatchewan we find this taking the form of school gardens supplemented by school or municipal fairs. In Manitoba and to a lesser extent in Alberta, boys' and girls' clubs are exceedingly popular. The value of this work cannot be over estimated. The movement in the West is really an outgrowth of the movement in Ontario and the United States, and has resulted in the creating of a healthy rivalry among the younger members of rural communities and in centring their attention upon and awakening their interest in various phases of agricultural activity.

We have only to remember that the boys and girls of today are the men and women of tomorrow, to be able to appreciate the significance of this intensive agricultural training. After all experience is the best teacher and in the older communities where the method has been thoroughly tested it has been productive of splendid results. Believing in the theory of beginning with the young people, The Grain Growers' Guide, in conjunction with the Saskatchewan University, the Saskatoon Fair Board and the Regina Department of Agriculture, last summer began laying plans for a farm boys' camp for the summer of 1918.

The Boys Arrive at Saskatoon

During the winter of 1917-18, 73 boys between the ages of 12-18 years, living on farms in Saskatchewan, secured from The Grain Growers' Guide allotments of registered seed grain. These boys obtained this seed by sending a few subscriptions to The Guide during the winter. Some boys secured wheat, others oats or barley. In every instance the grain secured was of an improved strain, and most of it was either elite stock or first generation seed. Each seeded the grain thus secured on a special seed plot according to the C.S.G.A. regulations. By securing the seed and seeding it as above outlined these boys qualified for attendance at the "Farm Boys' Camp." All expenses were paid from the time they left home until they again reached their local station.

On Saturday, July 13, at 7 a.m., Leonard Bashforth arrived in Saskatoon. He had come all the way from Cadillac on the C.P.R. to attend The Grain Growers' Guide Farm Boys' Camp. Throughout Saturday, Sunday,

Boys in attendance at The Guide Farm Boys' Camp judging Shorthorns at the Saskatoon Fair.



Monday and Tuesday every train pulling into Saskatoon brought its quota of boys. They came singly and in bunches of two, three or even five and six boys, in some instances, until there were gathered at Saskatchewan University 62 farm boys. Some travelled as far as 500 miles to attend this meeting and every part of the province was represented. Some had been born on Western Canadian farms and had never been farther from home than their local village before; some had never ridden on a street car and to each and every one this was a new and intensely interesting experience. Wray Youmans, a representative of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A., was in charge of the discipline, sports and recreation of the camp, and as the boys arrived in Saskatoon, they were driven to the University in automobiles and placed under his supervision.

Quartered in University Buildings

The first boys arrived in Saskatoon on July 13, and the first boy leaving camp left on the C.N.R. on Thursday afternoon, July 18. During their stay in Saskatoon the boys were quartered in the university dormitories. The larger part of the entire number were in Saskatchewan Hall, and the remain-

der in QuAppelle Hall. Mr. Youmans had his headquarters in QuAppelle Hall, and was known as "Big Chief Youmans." As they arrived they were paired off, each two being assigned to a room in which was found a table, two chairs, a chiffonier and two most comfortable single beds. They were also divided up into tribes. Two of the tribes consisted of 11 boys to the tribe and the other four of 10 boys each. The Crees, the Siwash, the Mo-hawks, the Iroquois, the Sioux and the Cheerokees, were all represented at the war council. Each tribe elected its own "little chief" who assumed the full responsibility for his braves, seeing that they attended all lectures, took part in sports, and that each boy was on hand at meal times. This last task was not a difficult one.

There were times during the period when those resident at the university were of the opinion that a band of real Indians was in attendance, for each one was a real live boy with his veins full of red blood, and his lungs unimpaired. He was of an age that all older folk look back upon and remember as "the age of real sport." Aubrey Bate, of Saskatoon, also connected with the Y.M.C.A., assisted Mr. Youmans in keeping the boys in line and in giving them a good time. He was known as



The Boys' Hosts at the Saskatoon Fair. R. W. Casswell, president; C. D. Fisher, secretary; J. O. Hettie, vice-president; and Russell Wilson, director of the Saskatoon Fair Board.

"Big Chief Bate." That the organization was efficient is demonstrated by the description of the camp as given by one of the boys from Balfour. He stated that there was "something going every minute."

A Daily Program

Most of the day, Monday was spent in getting acquainted, in organizing tribes, in getting boys comfortably located, playing games and teaching the bunch to work and play as a unit. Not the least of the accomplishments of this Monday's program was teaching the boys to yell. After Monday's reaching at a word from the "Big Chief," every one instantly came to attention, as H. F. Auld, the deputy minister of agriculture for Saskatchewan approached and 62 lusty voices called "Why Hello! There is Mr. Auld. How are you Mr. Auld? We are glad to see you." When Mr. Chipman, the editor of The Grain Growers' Guide appeared on the scene he was recognized, and as the one who had taken the initiative in making the camp at the University a possibility, he was given three cheers and a "tiger" that was so spontaneous and whole hearted that it would have put to shame a bunch of college students of like number who prided themselves most on the amount of noise they could make.

Jno. A.G. Raynor, the very capable director of boys and girls club work for Saskatchewan, was responsible for the arrangement of the daily program. Every minute of each day was provided for and the schedule was rigidly adhered to. The rising bell rang each morning at 6.45. Breakfast was served at 7.15 followed by drill under the direction of the Y.M.C.A. men. Two lectures each morning and two for each afternoon were a part of the daily regime and sufficient time was allotted to sports and recreation to insure no slackening of interest.

Dr. Walter C. Murray Talks

On Tuesday morning, for the first time, the boys were officially assembled as a group. They were marched into Convocation Hall, and there for half an hour listened with rapt attention as Dr. Murray, President of Saskatchewan's magnificent University, drove home to each the value of ideals and the fact that accomplishment is largely based upon the motive of the man and the objective that he sets out to attain. So impressed was Dr. Murray with the intelligence of the boys in attendance, that at the close of his address he gave each one of the 62 present a gift consisting of two books. These books

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The Boys who attended The Guide Farm Boys' Camp at the College of Agriculture, Saskatoon. In the front row are Prof. Wracken, of the College; Mr. Herbert, U.S. Vice-Consul; Mr. Auld, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Jno. M. Pratt, of The Guide Staff.