

### His first lesson

WHEN the colt is first tied he tests his strength against that of the Halter. Our Special

**Griffith**

colt halter will hold him. He will be tied to stay and learn no bad habits. These halters are made of the choicest materials throughout and may be adjusted readily to take care of growth. It will be a pleasure to have you look over our choice stock of halters and harness.



The "Classic Colt" and the "Sturdy" are favorites everywhere. They are both Griffith Halters.

N. B. HOWDEN ESTATE

J. McKERCHER, Watford

### INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Extracts from Inspector McDonald's 1919 Annual Report on the Schools of East Lambton.

To the Warden and Councillors of the County of Lambton. Gentlemen:—I shall give my report under the usual headings required by the Education Department.

**Accommodations.** By accommodations we mean the school building and school premises in general. A small portion of the annual grant is based on the Inspector's grading of the various items in this connection.

There were no new buildings erected during the year but about \$3000 was spent in permanent improvements. Several school sections have decided to build new schools as soon as normal conditions are restored. Some sections are also waiting to see what progress the Consolidated school movement is going to make before deciding to build. The items most deficient are the closets, water supply, seats, heating and ventilation. As these are items which vitally concern the health and physical comfort of the children it is of utmost importance that improvements be made as rapidly as possible.

**Attendance.** The total enrolled attendance for the year in both rural and urban schools of the Inspectorate was 3301 a decrease of 132 as compared with 1918. The decrease in the rural school enrolment was 87 and in the urban school enrolment was 45. There has been a decrease in school attendance of over thirty per cent. in the last ten years. The average attendance during a considerable part of the year is very irregular. The monthly report of the teachers show a good many cases of pupils of school age are being kept out of school the greater part of the time. The result of this is that the progress of the whole school is hindered and that a considerable number of pupils are dropping out of school each year because they have reached 14 years of age although educationally they have progressed no farther than the Second or Third Book.

It was because of conditions of this kind prevailing all over the province to an alarming extent, that the Truancy Act was superseded by the "School Attendance Act" passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1919 to come into effect at the beginning of 1920. By this act every township council is to appoint one or more school attendance officers to whom teachers will make a monthly report of all cases of irregularity of attendance. It will then be the duty of the attendance officers to investigate and to see that the School Attendance Act is not violated.

**Consolidated Schools.** The common school system in Ontario was established, by an act of the Provincial Parliament in 1816. It is therefore about one hundred years old. During the first fifty years there was the Pioneer School, a log structure without any equipment and destitute of furniture except crude seats made from logs. There were very few books and the subjects studied were reading, writing, arithmetic and spelling. The teachers were untrained and in many cases unfitted for such responsible positions, but these schools fairly well met the somewhat limited educational needs of the people of pioneer days. During the second fifty years we have had that type of school generally called "The Little Red School" which has been the best of its kind on the American continent, largely because of the carefully trained and efficient teachers in charge. This school is frame or brick and has better furniture, better equipment and has covered a wider range of studies than the Pioneer School because the Educational needs of the people have been greater.

We are now at the beginning of a third period in the educational history of this province and the indications are that a new and somewhat different type of rural school is needed to meet changed conditions and the still greater educational needs of rural communities. As I pointed out in my last report nearly 40 per cent. of the rural school buildings in East Lambton will in the future have to be replaced by new buildings of some kind and what is true in East Lambton is no doubt generally true of the province. The question of Consolidated Schools or whatever type is to be the rural school of the immediate future is one which vitally concerns the farmers of Ontario at the present time. Sections requiring to build a new school now or in the near future do not wish to build a school of the old type if a new type of school is soon to come into general use.

There are a hundred of these consolidated schools in Manitoba and thousands of them in the United States and they have given admirable satisfaction in almost every case. By means of these schools children in the country get the advantages of a high school as well as a common school education. The attendance is much more regular because the children are taken to school in vans and those far away can get to school every day just as easily as those near the school. Then the cost of maintaining a school in every section, in many of which there is but small attendance, is increasing so rapidly that the people are beginning to realize that there is considerable economic waste under the present system of one teacher rural schools in Ontario. With a system of Consolidated Schools in East Lambton, we could have both public and high school work taught with two-thirds of the number of teachers now required to teach public school work only.

The principle of co-operation is the dominating principle of the twentieth century civilization and I believe this is the principle that will most successfully solve the rural school problem. I notice by press reports that the farmers are now engaged in promoting various co-operative schemes involving vast sums of money and I would like to call attention to the fact that Consolidation of Schools simply means the application of the principle of co-operation to the management of the schools.

## CHRISTMAS GROCERIES

Icing Sugar, Shelled Walnuts and Almonds Dates, Figs, Bananas, Citron, Lemon and Orange Peels, Raisins and Currants.

CHRISTMAS CANDIES AND NUTS

### CHRISTMAS SLIPPERS

For Everyone in the Family

FOR MOTHER.....\$1.50 to \$2.25  
FOR FATHER.....\$1.50 to \$4.00  
FOR SISTER.....\$1.50 to \$2.25  
FOR BROTHER.....\$1.50 to \$3.00  
FOR THE LITTLE FOLKS...\$1.00

### FINE CHINA, GLASSWARE

W. D. Cameron

JOB PRINTING OF QUALITY AT THIS OFFICE

### PARENTS—

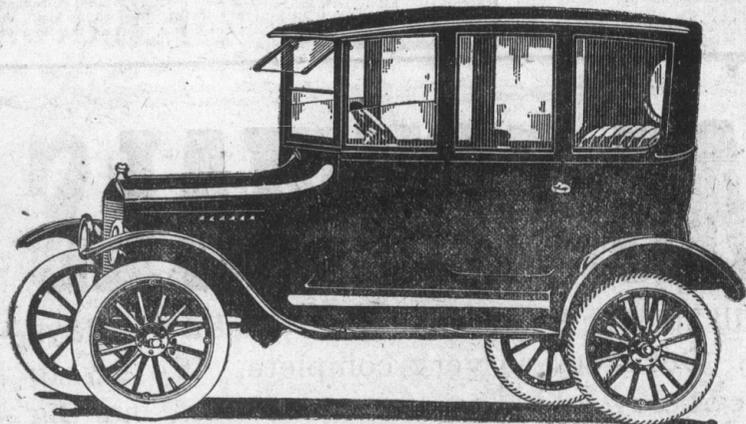
You know that the business of Farming now-a-days besides hard work requires good management and sound business judgment in order to be successful.

Nothing will help the young man or woman on the farm more—nothing will give them better business judgment or confidence than a good sound business education.

Give that boy or girl three or four months this fall or winter in the

*Sarnia Business College*

If you cannot attend write for information about a home study course.



MOST Christmas gifts are enjoyed for a day and then forgotten. A Ford Sedan or Touring Car is one gift the whole family will enjoy this winter, next summer and for many winters and summers to come.

It is the gift which will make this Christmas the beginning of a long period of happiness for every member of the family, old or young.

**R. MORNINGSTAR**

Dealer - Watford

**Financial**  
Receipts and Expenditures  
Total receipts for school purposes in 1919 ..... \$113,254.46  
Total expenditures for school purposes in 1919 ..... \$105,449.64

Total Government grants .. \$883.48  
Total County grants .. \$2,946.36

**General Remarks.**

No very radical changes along educational lines have been announced by the new Provincial Government, but both the Provincial Treasurer and the Minister of Education have made it abundantly clear in their statements that ample funds will be provided for carrying on the work of education throughout the province in a thorough and efficient manner. I believe the government is specially aware of the needs of rural schools and will give very generous assistance in helping to provide greater educational opportunities for rural communities.

During the Easter vacation all the school inspectors of the province were called into conference with the Premier and Minister of Education for the purpose of discussing the educational situation in the province. After considerable discussion the following resolutions were unanimously agreed upon and submitted to the Education Department for consideration.

1. That any permanent solution of the rural school problem can be brought about only through a proper system of consolidation of schools.

2. That in our opinion the necessary and desirable consolidations of Ontario schools can be brought about only with great difficulty so long as we have in the province thousands of small school sections, each more or less jealous of its powers of self-government.

3. That the government would be justified in bringing into operation a larger unit of school administration.

Both the Premier and Minister of Education addressed the inspectors congratulating them on the zeal they had shown for the advancement of Education and expressing the hope that for the future they would consider themselves not merely inspectors of schools but rather Directors of Education seeking not only to stimulate good work in the schools, but also trying, as far as time and opportunity will permit, to rouse the educational enthusiasm of the people in general. If we lose our grip on the value of education we shall prove ourselves unworthy of the magnificent heritage bequeathed to us as a result of the great sacrifices and heroic efforts of our forefathers.

**LAMBTON BLACK KNIGHTS**

Sarnia, Dec. 2.—Lambton County Chapter Royal Black Knights of Ireland met in annual session in the Orange Hall, Sarnia, recently. Sir Knights were present from all parts of the county, Very Worshipful Sir Knight J. C. McDonald, county master, presided. The following officers were declared elected for the ensuing year: very Wor. county master, J. C. McDonald; very Wor. deputy master, Thos. Easo, Petrolia; very Wor. county chaplain, K. O'Dell, Dawn; very Wor. county registrar, A. S. Crawford, Sarnia; county treasurer, William Love, Sarnia; 1st lecturer, A. H. Harrison, Sarnia; 2nd lecturer, H. O'Leary, Forest; 1st censor, Albert Gamble, Dawn; 2nd censor, Sir Knight Bygrave, Petrolia; 1st St. bearer, E. Hill, Wyoming; 2nd St. bearer, W. Rankin, Forest; pursuivant, T. J. Ervin, Sarnia; committee, J. Broterledge, M. Fraser, E. Molten, William McDonald, W. Sparling, W. Haggerty, S. O'Dell.

At the close of the county chapter Carnel Preceptory No. 801, Sarnia, was opened and raised to the Apron and Royal Blue degree, which was conferred on several candidates in a most excellent manner by Worshipful Preceptor Sir Knight A. S. Crawford and his staff of officers. The work was very much enjoyed by the large number of visitors from Fort Huron, Forest, Petrolia and Dawn. Refreshments were served later.