

editor of Farm and Dairy recently. As we approached the little school house, we first noticed a long string of rigs, tied up to the fence; the children's fair was evidently an event of some importance in the community. The exhibits—and there were

over 700 individual entries—were arranged in a large tent in which the judges were still busy; for competition was keen in every class; far keener than it is at the country fair conducted by the older folks.

The school grounds were crowded. The people must have numbered between 450 and 500. They were not all children either. Fully one-half were parents who were quite as anxious to hear the results as the children themselves.

"I guess there is no boy in Cavan township can come up to mine when it comes to growing potatoes," one proud mother was heard to remark. "Even his father says he never saw the like of them. You can see his exhibit inside the door to the right. He has over a bag from just 14 seed potatoes. Ah, yes, he is quite a farmer." This is only one of many similar exclamations that we heard. Speculation was rife as to how awards were being distributed inside the big tent. Each parent was certain that their children would be numbered among the successful ones.

#### POULTRY JUDGING VERSUS BASEBALL

The exhibitors of poultry did not have to wait so long to know results. The poultry crates were arranged outside the tent. The boys in their eagerness, crowded close around the judge and interfered with his movements. A baseball game was started in an adjoining field, but this diversion, so effectual at all other times, failed to attract now.

"Aren't you going to that game?" asked the judge. "Not much," was the immediate answer of the freckle-faced youngster who, hands in pockets, had been standing with his eyes fixed hopefully on one pen for fully half an hour. "I'd rather see what you're going to give those birds of mine." And all might have expressed similar sentiments, for not one moved. As the ribbons were distributed various exclamations of delight or disappointment were heard. But there was no hard feeling. The children proved themselves good losers.

But what a confusion when everyone was admitted to the big tent. Boys and girls, and older people, too, were hurrying in every direction trying to locate the exhibit that interested them most. When some semblance of order had been restored, the speeches of the afternoon were given.

"We older people have nothing on the children when it comes to putting up a good fair," was the compliment paid by one of the directors of the Millbrook Fair to his young listeners. Mr. Roadhouse, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, expressed similar ideas. So did the public school inspector, who had



These Numerous Rigs Bear Further Testimony to Rural School Fair Popularity

From a photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy outside the grounds of the Cavan School, when the fair was in progress.

been watching the children at work all summer. Mr. R. S. Duncan, the district representative, who had started the association, stood up and was accorded the enthusiastic reception that he deserved. And then came a speech from Lawrence Gray, a youngster of 10 years, but holding the dignified position of President of the Cavan Rural School Fair Association; and this brings up another phase of the school fair idea. The fair is entirely under the management of officers elected by the children themselves.

Each school elects a committee, with President, Vice-president, and Secretary. The elections are put through in formal way, thus giving



Mangolds Grown by School Children

Will not these compare with the best, anywhere? They attracted much attention at the Cavan Rural School Fair in Durham Co., Ont. —Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

the children training that will stand them in good stead in later years. The executive of each school then elects a delegate to the central body that presides over all the schools in the township. These delegates elect a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary and a Treasurer, the others acting as Directors. This central body, with the assistance of the district representative, makes all the arrangements for the prize list and conducts all business pertaining to the fair. They even attend to the financing, paying all accounts by cheque in a most businesslike manner. The funds, by the way, are provided by donations by public-spirited individuals.

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One of the Best Features of the School Fair is that the Children Manage It

Here may be seen the youthful executive of the Port Hope Band of the School Fair Association. With the assistance of the representative and his secretary, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Fry, who may also be seen in the illustration, these children arranged the prize list and attended to the financial management of their township fair.

#### Why Underdrainage Pays

D. E. Lothian, Peterborough, Ont.

How does drainage improve the conditions for plant growth? Just in the same way that a modern barn improves the condition of cattle, or a well-ventilated, clean and dry poultry pen produces birds of superior quality. It is the increased sanitation of the surroundings that counts.

Moisture is only one of the many factors involved. The amount of moisture which a soil should contain for ideal conditions will vary with the nature of the soil. Sand which drains better than clay has not such a large capacity for water. We all know that a soil may be either too wet or too dry. The plant likes a soil which will not waterlog, but one which will approximately contain as much as it can hold in sponge-like fashion; in other words, as much as it can absorb and no more than it will absorb.

A waterlogged soil is a soil the pore space of which is completely filled, while a soil in an ideal state has only a film of water surrounding each soil particle. Such water is scientifically known as capillary water, because it rises up towards the surface of the ground and is then delivered to the roots of plants. This is the ideal moisture condition.

#### IMPORTANCE OF AIR SUPPLY

Another thing which plants absolutely require if they are to grow to the best advantage is a generous supply of oxygen at their roots. Oxygen being a part of fresh air, we must allow the air into the soil. It cannot get in if the soil is waterlogged. If, however, there is only a film of water on the earth particles, which I have already stated to be the ideal moisture condition, then there will be plenty of room for air as well as for water.

Of course the supply of fresh air at the roots of crops we have a very insanitary condition. All plants excrete poisonous by-products from their roots. When I say poisonous by-products, I mean by-products which if not removed will kill or injure the plants which create them. Many of these poisonous substances when they come in contact with fresh air, change to non-poisonous substances; hence the benefit to the crops of plenty of fresh air. Drainage and frequent cultivation are the two farm practices which are responsible for supplying the crops with the oxygen of the air.

Aeration or the supply of fresh air to plants has another very important application. Most of the decomposition of organic matter, whether it be of animal or plant origin, is due to the presence of bacteria. These bacteria are minute forms of life which live in the soil. They also require a free supply of oxygen in order to do their most work.

If we have the moisture and air conditions already outlined present, we shall have also the

#### Thick or Thin

"I have just been in a temporary farm paper planting of corn. We the closer corner is planted we will get per acre. United States, but it is planting of corn has Ontario."

In this uncompromising most successful farmer press himself recently Dairy.

"Here is an experienter he continued. "We have corn this year. It is

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Be Ca

L. K. S.

We have well fresh on our farm some have less; consider it sufficient care. But how careless of the have in horse feed

At two periods make mistakes the spring where the mess or very light the most strenuous standpoint, of the

Another critical the time when fall put on winter rats for my own guidance for the con-derat up in two don'ts

Don't keep on many men make a good condition rations when the days for the season. This puts too great the digestive organs to result in all kinds of trouble to say stock the legs of our other ill, that ways accompany rations.

My second rule is feeding too suddenly there are more horses need of this rule former. The rule both feed and exercise

My horses at present 12 to 15 quarts a day. They are well at fall plowing. They are regulated so that the demand is equivalent food contained in 12 of oats. Suppose plowing is finished that I drop the ration quarts a day. This bound to result in lameness, for the system of the 12 quarts or much. I will reduce that the horse may do considerable.

Nor will I stop much prefer to do in order to break the than to plow up to then do no more time yet, also, there should not be free time all day. In fact running in the yard