

sion in the School Act permitting its adoption.

"It would be better for the Department of Education, it would be better for the people. Such boards could undertake many things that the small board does not attempt. At present the country schools are officered by young ladies without any, or very little experience. In no other calling is the direct administration of work left to those without experience. What is necessary is the presence in every large municipality or community of a roving principal, as director of all the schools. He could advise the school board on all technical matters; could plan school gardens; select suitable equipment; see that caretaking and repairs were properly attended to—in short, he would be the board's expert in educational matters. He could place teachers where they would be of most use. By constant visitation, and through monthly gatherings of the staff, he could inspire and direct and prevent the development of wrong tendencies. Surely there is all the difference in the world between a business that is wisely directed and a business that is allowed to run wild in some of its departments.

"Then, again, every municipality could arrange for its own High School. Consolidation on a larger scale would be possible. It is believed that had municipal school boards been in existence in this province ten years ago,

in one section that could be named the thirty districts would have naturally reduced themselves to nine consolidated areas. It was the small school boards that stood in the way. All were in favor of the scheme, but there were a few things the small boards could not do, but which a central body could have done in a few minutes.

"Think how boards of this kind, by grading salaries, could ensure the retention of good teachers, promoting them from school to school as the reward of good service. There is no such opportunity now, and many teachers leave their schools just when they are becoming useful.

"How about cost? There is absolutely nothing to be afraid of. It would be as easy for the Department of Education to help school boards to pay superintendents as it is to pay money directly to school inspectors. In fact, inspectors would automatically become superintendents. The administration of affairs would be simplified in every way, and the schools would receive new dignity. It need hardly be pointed out that in the purchase of supplies in wholesale lots and in the employment of travelling specialists to introduce new branches of study something of great value could be accomplished."

This, of course, is but the barest outline of an argument, but it is enough to show that the present system has many disadvantages.

MINNEDOSA BOYS' AND GIRLS' FAIR

By J. P. BORTHISTLE

Organizer and Secretary, Minnedosa

The second annual fair of the Boys' and Girls' Club was held in Minnedosa on October 27 last, under the auspices of the Agricultural College, the same being a decided success, for although a blinding snowstorm ruled that day many of the exhibitors drove a distance of some 15 miles.

This organization resulted from my attendance at your Trustee Convention held in 1915 in Winnipeg, when, on hearing your speaker on the subject, I

felt it was the one link needed to join that great chain, home, school, teacher, and, in fact, the whole community closer together, beside affording the several children who take part pleasure closely related to the work, and the best methods to adopt for their future welfare.

Mr. Newton, Superintendent Extension Service Manitoba Agricultural College, kindly consented to address a meeting in our school house, when we