OCTOBER 7, 19



A Championship Judging Competition.

S school fairs are now carried on in practically every county of Ontario, and, in many instances, in every township in the county, most people are fairly familiar with the work that is conducted through the medium of these fairs. It is not, at present, merely a showing of roots, vegetables, live stock, and miscellaneous articles, but there is now a competition in the judging of live stock, grain and roots. These things are of great educational value to the boys and girls and should have an important bearing on the success of agriculture in the future. Oxford County is possibly as well organized for school-fair work as any in the Province, and, under the leadership of the Agricultural Representative, G. R. Green, the fairs are doing a big work in interesting the boys and girls in live stock and in developing live-

stock judges. Ten school fairs were held in the County this year, with a stock judging competition at each. Each school is expected to choose a team of three boys to represent the section in the competition. In all, forty-two teams competed. It was arranged that the two highest teams in each school fair would be eligible for the championship competition to be held at the Woodstock Agricultural Fair. While twenty teams were eligible, fifteen competed on Friday, September 24. The boys on the different teams were from ten to fourteen or fifteen years of age and most of them gave evidence of having a knowledge of the different classes of stock, Last year the boys worked on sheep and swine, and this year horses and dairy cattle were judged. It was no haphazard judging; the boys in most cases had been ably coached by breeders in their school sections, by their teachers, or by members of last year's agricultural class. The honor of the school was at stake in these competitions, and everyone was keenly interested. Further interest was added by the fact that the Harris Abattoir Company, of Toronto, had donated two free trips to the Chicago International to the young men who coached the school-fair stockjudging teams winning the second and third prizes in the championship event, the provision being that the coach must have attended one of the four-week's winter short courses held in Oxford County. The Merchants' Bank donated a trip to Chicago to the coach of the prizewinning team. Then, too the competitors themselves had something at stake. The winning team secured a silver cup, donated by the Sentinel Review Company, this to be the property of the school for one year. Then to each boy in the winning team was given a pure-bred Yorkshire pig; to each boy in the team winning second class. the team winning second place, 100 Barred Rock eggs to be delivered next spring; and to the boys in the third-prize team, 50 "Rock" eggs. The boy who made the highest score received a pure-bred heifer calf, provided his father was a patron of the Toronto City Dairy Comny, which Company was the donor the prize. The Woodstock Fair Board donated liberal prizes in the championship classes of grain, roots, vegetables, potatoes, poultry, flowers, etc., besides giving all winners of first, second and third prizes at any of the local school fairs a complimentary ticket to the fair. School Section No. 2, Nissouri, won first place, with James Oliver, of Kintore, as coach. The competitors were Willie Oliver, Russell Fraser, and Gilbert Alderson. Blanford No. 7, coached by the school teacher, was second, with School Section No. 5 East Oxford, third. Thomas Pellow, of this school, secured the dairy calf. The coaches eligible for the trip to Chicago are James Oliver,

The result of this line of work is far tion, but it is interesting to the older brothers and the fathers. These young agricultural enthusiasts, who, in their early 'teens are studying the art of judging live stock and farm products,

Frank Cowan and Howard Hallock.

respective school sections, and are the means of interesting their parents in better live stock and improved farming methods. The very fact that live stock breeders in the County will give of their time and energy to help the boys in their work is very encouraging. There are instances in Oxford County where the men have taken the judging team from their school section to visit neighboring herds and have a work-out in judging. Stockmen all through the County have willingly allowed the boys to work on their live stock, and have given them all the points they possibly could in picking out the best animals and giving reasons for doing so, This early training of the boys will, no doubt, develop future live stock breeders and judges. There is something in a competition which brings out the best in a person, and in this case not only were the competitors benefited but the older brothers and parents were, as well; they were at the fair and took a keen interest in the competition. There is room for such parents in every country. work in every country. Local competition between schools of the township are good but when there is a county champion ship competition it creates further interest as there is more at stake, and the local fair is thereby improved. Work of this kind which interests the boys and guls in agriculture is not wasted energy, but, on the contrary, is work which will have far-reaching results. One had to attend the championship school fair for Oxford County to appreciate the good work which is being done in this line.

The School and the Community.

HE school is the central institution of the community. It is representative of the homes, of the farms, and the numerous activities of the district The teacher and pupils working together can, in addition to their regular duties perform a service to the neighborhood that will make the little school an aid as well as a place of learning. Why should not the school be headquarters for scientific information in the com-munity? The teacher should not be expected to know all the science or practice of farming, but the school library ought to contain the desired information, and the teacher ought to be the librarian. The young man or young woman in charge of a school is a teacher trained and educated for that purpose, and should not be burdened with the responsibility of guiding and directing the enterprises of the community. We make this statement because some rura folk are inclined to speak a little dis paragingly of teachers when they appear not fully acquainted with the ways customs and practices of the neighborhood to which they have recently come. This is a big world, and there is so much to be known that very few ever live long enough to learn more than one one-hundredth parts and there are thousands. hundredth part—and there are thousands of subjects. If the new school mistress or master is a good teacher, that is an accomplished. accomplishment worthy of the highest

These remarks about the of a teacher are subordinate, howe to the real theme of this article, point we desire to make is this: The school ought to contain a good library of a rural character, and the teacher should become so fully acquainted with the books on the shelves that any point in question and the trade with the in question can be looked up in a few minutes. Books on farming and bulletins from both the Provincial and Dominion Departments of Agriculture should be gathered together there, systematically arranged, and, if necessary, indexed. The school then becomes the fountain of information in the gural community. of information in the rural community. not for the children alone but for the parents and adults as well. When a problem arises that is beyond the teacher problem arises that is beyond the teacher or the library, the parties concerned might be directed to the Agricultural Representative, the Provincial Department of Agricultural ment of Agriculture, the Agricultural College, or Dominion officials, and the teacher ought to know where the best information and the least informa information can be obtained in the least possible time.



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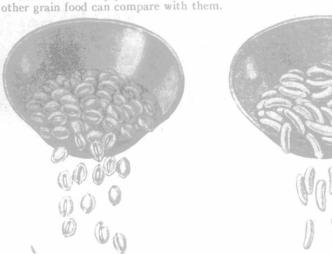
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