

### The Rural School Problem in Huron County

(Continued from page 3)

The survey showed that 49 per cent, almost half of the rural churches in Huron county, are stationary. They have neither lost nor gained 10 members during the last 10 years; 18 per cent, or over one-quarter of them, are actually decreasing, and only a few have closed altogether. Only 24½ per cent, or less than one-quarter, have increased their membership.

All denominations have suffered. The Anglicans, for instance, numbered 12,472 in 1881 and only 7,031 in 1911. The Methodist membership decreased from 25,300 to 13,199 in the same period. Presbyterians numbered 25,683 in 1881 and only 18,373 in 1911. The Lutherans came nearer holding their own, their decline being only from 1,976 to 1,853. The maintenance of its church and its minister, becoming an ever-increasing problem in the rural districts.

#### THE BREADTH OF THE SURVEY

The Survey embodied much more than this brief review would indicate. The status of the rural church, in particular, was clearly inquired into. Figures were collected showing interest taken in Sabbath school and church societies. The overlapping of churches came in for close investigation. In short, conditions in Huron county are now better known than conditions in any other county of Ontario or of Canada.

Huron county is only one of many rural counties in which conditions are similar. Through this survey, Mr. Gump and those who worked with him have brought the seriousness of the situation before the churches and the people generally in a manner which cannot be denied or side-stepped.

The extension of the survey idea will serve to keep public attention focused on the rural problem. The questions now up for discussion are: What are the causes? What is the remedy? Next week Farm and Dairy will outline the remedies proposed at three meetings held recently in Huron. Then we will welcome discussion through these columns by all who have thoughts to impart in connection with this great problem. For Huron's problem is common to all of Eastern Canada.—F.E.E.

### The Army Worm Invasion

That dread pest of the farmer, the Army Worm, is again in action. Reports last week told of great devastations in Brant, Oxford and Norfolk counties, the first county suffering the most. Just before going to press Farm and Dairy received word that an army worm had started operations in Peterboro county, one farmer finding three acres of his corn striped.

With these outbreaks in such widely scattered districts farmers all over Ontario will be feeling uneasy and should be on the lookout for the pest. One of the methods of fighting the worm adopted in Brant county under the direction of district representative J. Schuyler, is to plow a deep furrow and dig out holes at intervals in the furrow. These post holes are filled with the worms which are exterminated by soaking with kerosene and burning. Another method recommended is to avoid the worms by spraying thoroughly a strip of ground with Paris Green or arsenate of lead. Scattering bran manure mixed with Paris Green in front of the plow will also help. The moment the furrow is started after the worms are first discovered, the easier will be the conquest.

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