

acquainted. Then a dainty lunch was served, which was really "quite up-to-date," as one of the ladies kindly supplied the ice-cream.

Late in the afternoon the gathering broke up, with evident satisfaction on many faces and a desire to come again most heartily expressed by all. The

parents appeared to grow more enthusiastic over the school and its work from that day on, and, as that was by no means the last social event of the year, I had many an inspiring experience, which comes to the teacher only through the heartfelt interest of the community.

### INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

In the face of the most serious food situation which has ever existed in the world, the question of increased food production is the most important, one with which the people of Canada, and of the world at large, have ever been confronted.

It is not only a patriotic duty to produce more food, it is a vital necessity, for the neglect of which not only we and our children may suffer, but all the peoples of the known world. For lack of food the terrible sacrifice of life and treasure made in this war may be made useless and of no value. For lack of food the ideals of the world may be changed from those which we are upholding, and are pledged to uphold to our last man and last dollar, to those for which Germany and all her brutal military forces have fought and struggled for three long years. It is the obvious duty of every teacher in every community to make themselves preachers of this doctrine—there should be no vacant arable land anywhere on which it is possible for private individual, school board, trustee association, or municipality, to grow grain of any variety, potatoes, onions, beets, carrots or other food which might be stored for future use or shipped immediately to the countries of Europe. Adequate storage accommodation should be arranged for beforehand by the building of proper root houses, and every effort should be made to conserve the crop grown in this way.

In this connection we would like to quote extracts from a letter appearing recently in the Press. This letter, writ-

ten by a Victoria man, should impress on every reader the extreme seriousness of the situation. What Germany has been doing in intensive farming and food conservation since 1914, we are only beginning now, but a late beginning will be no excuse for present slackness, but should rather act as a spur to our effort:

"As I am convinced that but few realize the seriousness of the present situation; though patent to any thinking observer or reader, I ask you to publish what the Canadian Food Bulletin issued fortnightly from the food controller's office at Ottawa, quotes from the two greatest authorities. Lord Rhondda, the English food controller, says: "The food wanted by mankind does not exist. The word 'shortage' is not strong enough for the situation. To put the matter bluntly, the whole world is up against a nasty thing, familiar to the people of India, called 'famine.'" Again, regarding the wheat situation, he said: "The position in two or three months may be serious indeed." He said that if the farmers of England could only get a million acres of potatoes under cultivation this year, there would be no fear of starvation, and by starvation, he said, "I mean starvation which is followed by disease and death." Sir Edmund Walker, the Canadian banker, said: "The danger of famine is very real."

Mr. R. E. Prothero, president of the board of agriculture, England, says: "England is in a much more critical condition, and approaching the rapids.