

"Our school won the Strathcona Prize last year, and we bought a nice framed picture with the money. We are working for it again this year. They have raised enough money to get a framed picture of the British flag."

"Dear Sir—

You will no doubt be interested to know that we held our School Exhibition on Thursday, Oct. 4th.

For the first attempt, it passed off with considerable success and met with hearty approval and enthusiasm from our many visitors.

To encourage the children I thought it better to give the prizes by grades and make them as numerous as possible so our prize list is quite large as you will observe from enclosed clipping. We raised \$84.65, to be divided among the prize winners, by charging 10 cents admission and sale of candy made by Domestic Science girls."

F. I. Lent.

### A HANDBOOK ON THE DEBATING CLUB.

Why cannot we have a few live debates in our school houses during the coming winter? That is a question that the intellectual leaders of many a rural community are asking themselves just now. And echo answers, "Why not?"

It is true that many young men are away at the war; and it is also true that Red Cross and other activities are engaging the attention of many people. Yet, in spite of all this, there are still a great number of young and middle-aged married folks, young women and advanced youths—yes, and older people as well—who would thoroly enjoy and profit by a hearty debate now and again, relieving the monotonous stretch of the long winter evenings. And as the knitting may be taken along, the time need not all be lost either.

As a right-close-at-home, self-acting, post-graduate means of polishing up an education, and of wearing the rust out of the joints of one's mind, there are not many institutions more effective than the debating club. A winter's experience as a leader in such a line of activity has helped many a young man really to discover himself, and has inspired and helped to fit him to become a public leader in other community enterprises as well.

To guide those who may wish to conduct a series of debates, G. A. Sproule, Professor of English at the Manitoba Agricultural College, has written a sixteen-page bulletin entitled "Debating Clubs". This bulletin goes fully into such questions as how to organize, duties of officers, how to plan a season's program, how to debate, how to judge debates, and how to do business in a parliamentary manner. A list of forty suggested topics of debate is appended.

Free copies of the bulletin may be had either from the Manitoba Agricultural College or the Publications Branch, Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.—Farmer's Advocate, Winnipeg.

### A STANDARD SCHOOL.

State of Oregon, U. S. A.

The Standard Rural School in the State of Oregon, demands greater efficiency than we do in Nova Scotia. Following is an introductory paragraph and the requirements for a standard school. Possibly our own teachers could take a hint from these. The Inspectors in Oregon report on all these requirements.

A standard to which each rural district must bring its school, a measuring rod whereby the farmer may be convinced that he has not as a rule been providing house and grounds equal to those for his cattle and horses, that he has not been demanding the same grade of efficiency of the rural teacher as he has of his hired hands, this is the plan which is making the work of the rural school in Oregon effective. It was begun in Polk County some five years ago, and since then every school in that County has reached the standard.

**Flag**—Must be flying, weather permitting.

**Schoolhouse**—Properly lighted.

**Equipment**—Teacher's desk and chair; desks for pupils properly adapted and placed; suitable blackboards; window shades in good condition.