

SOUTH GREY TEACHERS MET AT MARKDALE

(Continued from page 2)

seeds, which later grew into plants. The importance of a school garden cannot be overestimated. There should be no rural school without one. Be good to the roadside trees. They make for beauty in the landscape.

Injurious insects destroy annually much that is valuable in plant life. Birds that feed upon these insects are a great help to the farmer and the gardener. Cats are the natural enemies of birds and if kept as pets should be well fed so they do not resort to the destruction of useful birds.

Fire Prevention Week

"During the last ten years in Canada statistics clearly show that fires have increased 198 per cent, while the population has increased only 18 per cent," said the Rev. A. S. Mitchell, Markdale, Commissioner for Boy Scouts in South Grey, in introducing his subject, "Some Thoughts on Fire Prevention Week." "Notwithstanding all the fire insurance, the loss to Canada is appalling."

The government of Canada has set this week apart as Fire Prevention week, to draw the attention of Canadians to the enormous losses by fire and to consider some of the causes of fires to as to avoid them as much as possible in the future. There should be greater care exercised, first in building a house, to make it as fire proof as possible. All holes in partitions should be cemented around. Use only good pipes in home, in school and in church. Furnace pipes rust during the summer and should be closely inspected in the fall before using the furnace. Clean out the furnace in the fall and then again in February when winter is half over.

Many fires are caused by overheated stoves and furnaces, defective chimneys and pipes. Close the openings into chimneys with metal covers, not with cheesecloth papered over to make it look like the rest of the wall. Use as few elbows as possible and these of 45 degrees instead of 90 degrees, or rounded. As 14 per cent of our fires are caused by sparks falling on the roof, it is therefore necessary that our roof should be of some fire proof material. Metal roofs are now much used, and ground wires used for safety in electric storms as well. Use metal matting under stoves and upon walls near heated stoves. Use spools on nails to attach the metal matting to the wall, thus creating a cool air space between wall and metal.

Be careful in using coal oil and gasoline in the house. Never use coal oil to start a fire. Teach children to be careful with matches, which should be kept always in a metal container. If there is any danger of coal oil being upset, then fill the bowl of the lamp with cotton batting and saturate with oil and put in the wick. Leave no oiled cloths in the car or in your garage. Fires from spontaneous combustion are often a result of a neglect of this precaution.

These are only a few of the precautions urged by Rev. Mr. Mitchell but enough were cited to convince his hearers that eternal vigilance is the price of safety.

A Practical Grammar Lesson.

A lesson in grammar with a junior IV Class, consisting of six girls and three boys was then given by Mr. W. H. T. Mooney, B. A., of the Toronto Normal School. The class was composed of members of the Markdale School. By skilful questioning and good blackboard work Mr. Mooney introduced the pronoun, Person in Pronouns and Classification of pronouns. The class did good work in giving the required answer. He took up more than is usually covered in one lesson, but the object was to illustrate his plan of taking this part of the grammar. This demonstration closed the forenoon session.

Friday Afternoon's Session.

"Household Science in a Rural School" was the title of a paper by Miss Irva Pearson of Hanover.

Miss Pearson is a progressive teacher in a progressive school section, where hot lunches are prepared and partaken of by the pupils and teacher from November 1 to March 31. She clearly showed her system and some of the advantages from the hot lunch are (a) pupils learn how to do this work outside their own homes, (b) they learn the proper preparation of lunch, (c) they learn how to properly set a table, (d) this noonday lunch at the school promotes sociability, (e) pu-

pils can do better work after having had a warm lunch at school than by a cold dinner frozen on the way to school.

Hygiene is thus taught practically and the food values of different foods are better understood. Neatness and table manners are also learned. Manual training is correlated, as sewing may be added for the girls. Hemming towels and mending, making tea aprons, and other work, tends to develop habits of thrift, neatness and accuracy.

Such excellent accounts of how to begin and how to carry on when once begun were given that we venture to predict more schools in South Grey will serve hot lunch this winter. Besides the benefits cited here there is also a financial benefit.

The Department of Education is so much in favor of hot lunch in every rural school in Ontario that there is a grant of \$10 from November 1 to March 31, as well as grants of \$15 and upwards to any school in which Household Science is taught.

Another Good Address.

Miss Lorine Lippert of Neustadt dealt with "Helpful Devices in the Primary Class." She mentioned particularly the part played by stories suitable for the Primary room. She gave a list of books suitable for this class, together with the names of authors and where these books can be procured. Miss Lippert also gave an excellent example of her storytelling as she related the story of "Little Black Sambo."

Something for Boys and Girls.

T. Stewart Cooper, B.S.A., the Agricultural Representative for the County of Grey, detailed the programme for Boys' and Girls' development for Grey County.

This work is among boys and girls of the teen age and upward in the rural parts of the county. As agriculture is the basic industry of Canada, everything possible should be done to have it efficiently done. All that is new and for the better in agriculture must be brought to those actively engaged. Several courses have been mapped out by Alex. McLaren of Guelph Agricultural College. Courses in stock-judging, domestic science, debating and public speaking are given. Prizes and trophies are put up for the winners among the 19 clubs now in operation in the county. Politics is completely barred out of these contests.

Grey is to be divided into North and South Grey so as to carry on this work better among the many clubs that will be in operation during the winter. Mr. Cooper and Mr. Nelson, his assistant, are very enthusiastic in their work in school fairs and in all the work in rural Grey.

Change in Programme.

Miss Kathleen Firth was called upon to give a reading by way of variety from the rest of the programme. She gave the story of how Sam Foss was led to write that popular poem, "The House By the Side of the Road," and then recited the

stanzas, bringing the spirit of the selection to notice.

Intermediate Grade History.

"Use the oral method in these intermediate grades," cautioned Miss Jean Witham of Hanover in commencing her contribution to the convention entitled, "History in the Intermediate Grades." Make the language simple and easy for them to understand. The simpler it is made for them the better they will remember. Make it like the radio language, clear and plain. The History reader is too difficult. Get books more simply written and have the pupils read for themselves. Then have them tell you orally what they have learned.

Geography and History being twin subjects, one cannot be taught without indirectly helping the other. Ready-made notes should not be used too largely. The story of the Past leads to the Present, and stretches out beyond into the future.

Music in the Schools.

"Music, Its Value and Relation to the School," was taken by Miss Hil-da Gehhardt of the Neustadt Public school. She spoke of the pleasure of the Art of Music. The playing of musical instruments should receive encouragement. Each school should have a musical instrument, a gramophone, anyway. Have singing in the school and make it interesting. By having music in the school room there will be music in the school bell every morning.

Principal E. A. Ruttle of the Dundalk Public school gave a good report of the Ontario Educational Association meeting in Toronto last Easter.

W. Donaldson, B.A., of Markdale High school, had for his subject, "The Essentials of Progress." Man-kind has made more progress during the last 50 years than during the thousand years before that time. We now live in the good new time. It was brain, not brawn, that brought man out of barbarism. Through the discovery of the power of steam by James Watt, one man is now enabled to produce the same as a thousand men before this discovery. The speaker instanced the changes wrought in producing new grains and new fruits by such master minds as Burbank and MacIntosh.

Mr. Donaldson has lately taken charge of the Markdale school and created a very favorable impression on the Institute.

Mr. J. A. M. Robb, Principal of the Durham High school, was called upon for an impromptu address. Although taken completely by surprise he was equal to the occasion. He suggested that there be a High school representative on the committee drafting the programme for the next meeting. It was a good suggestion which was carried out at the subsequent election of officers.

Principal Hamilton of the Hanover High School followed very briefly, as did also Mr. D. T. Wright of the Dundalk High School.

The chairmanship of the Resolutions Committee was held by Prin-

cipal Magee of Hanover High school. This committee brought in two resolutions: (1) That the Department of Education be asked to compile graded music readers for use in Ontario Schools, these to be of a combination of the Tonic Sol-Fah Notation and the Staff Notation. This first resolution was carried.

The second asked "That the South Grey Teachers' Institute send one or two delegates with railway fares paid to the meeting of the World Federation in Toronto in 1927, said delegates to give report of proceedings at next meeting of Institute." This matter was left to be dealt with by the incoming executive.

Inspector Wright reported that a phone message received that day from Owen Sound, where the West Grey teachers were in session, asking what the South Grey teachers thought about foregoing their annual meeting in 1927 and taking the three Institutes to Ottawa Normal School for the two days. The matter was shelved for the time being on motion.

The Election of Officers

The Standing Committee brought in its report as follows, on the election of officers for 1927:

Hon. Pres., Robert Wright, I. P. S., Hanover.

President, D. McCormick, Bentinck Vice-President, Miss C. M. Weinert, Neustadt.

Secy.-Treas., J. A. Graham, Durham.

Auditors, Miss S. F. MacDonald, Durham; D. A. McIntosh, Dornoch, Managing Committee, J. A. Graham, Durham; Miss Jean Floyd, Holstein; Miss Jessie B. Witham, Durham; J. A. M. Robb, Durham, High School Representative.

Resolutions Committee, Messrs. H. W. Ermel, Neustadt; E. A. Ruttle, Dundalk; J. A. Magee, Hanover; Misses M. McBride, Egremont; M.

Leeson, Normanby; E. M. Park, Glenelg.

Delegates to O.E.A., Messrs. W. J. Messenger, Markdale, and J. A. Graham, Durham.

Durham was decided upon as the place of meeting for the annual convention in 1927.

On motion, votes of thanks were passed to those who took part in the programme, the staffs of the High and Public Schools of Mark-

dale for their hospitality, and to W. H. T. Mooney of the Toronto Normal School for his excellent address.

With the singing of the National Anthem, there was brought to a close one of the very best sessions of the Teachers' Institute, ever held in South Grey.

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