

School Fairs and Home Garden Contests Ontario—1922

School fairs have had a wonderful development in Ontario during the past few years. Their popularity does not seem to be waning in the least and it is a particularly encouraging sign to see the deep interest that is

By R. S. Duncan, B.S.A., Director, Agricultural Representative Branch.

	1909	1915	1921
Number of School Fairs held	1	234	449
Number of schools included	3	2,291	3,847
Number of children taking part	58	48,386	95,307
Number of home plots	58	51,243	114,216
Number of entries made at the fairs	174	116,236	193,645
Number of children attending fairs	80	72,860	154,831
Number of adults attending fairs	170	84,406	188,728
Total attendance at fairs	250	157,266	343,259

This is truly a phenomenal growth and it is the desire of the department to extend from time to time this form of education to all the rural schools in the province in order that all school children may enjoy its benefits.

During the past season, the Ontario Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Representatives, distributed to the boys and girls enrolled in the School Fair movement the following quantities of seeds and eggs:

Potatoes	1,039 bags
Oats, barley and wheat	252 bush.
Peas and corn (sweet and field)	24,100 pkgs.
Beets, carrots, onions and parsnips	42,000 "
Mangels and turnips	12,800 "
Asters, phlox, sweet peas and cosmos	30,760 "
Eggs, bred-to-lay Barred Plymouth Rock	10,852 "

Each School Fair is carried on by a board of directors composed of representatives from the school, the Agricultural Representative acting as manager. In most cases the Representative is assisted by a local committee representing the teachers, trustees and parents, and where we have an active committee all pulling together, there is no weak link in the chain.

One of the greatest handicaps to better work is the annual change of teachers, but this is gradually being overcome because many teachers have had more or less experience with school fairs even before they graduate from the Normal schools.

It is very gratifying to report that the quality of the exhibits is improving from year to year. The pupils are gradually learning that it does not pay to bring anything but "good stuff" to the fair. The judges are requested to point out by comparison the difference between the exhibits awarded first prize and those awarded second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth prizes. Besides giving reasons for their placings, the judges try to point out to the exhibitors and others the desirable type, what constitutes quality in the various classes called for on the prize list, and to offer hints or suggestions as to the preparation of exhibits. To my mind this is one of the greatest educational features of the school fair.

District championship School Fairs were held during the past season in the following counties: Frontenac, Halton, Norfolk, Oxford, Welland, and Wentworth, and Rainy River, and Manitowlin districts. The first, second and third prize exhibits from the various school fairs in the county or district were eligible for competition in the agricultural society supplying practically all the prize money.

Championship fairs are feasible only where it is possible to conduct the school fairs sufficiently early in the season to allow prize exhibits to compete at the place where the championship fair is held and where transportation facilities are sufficient. Boys and girls take a great pride in winning a championship ribbon, and the quality of the exhibits is reflected in the local school fair. The championship goal seems to be an added stimulus. The exhibits staged at these championship fairs were not only a credit to the pupils but also to the district from which they came. The pupils are "broadening out," and they are gaining a wonderful experience which will have its effect upon the larger fairs in the future.

During the past two or three years there has been an agitation on the part of the officers of some agricultural societies to have the school fairs linked up with fairs held under society auspices. Those favoring the holding of joint fairs put forth the argument that there would be less duplication of work and effort and the combined fair would be more successful. This scheme has had a fair trial, and about the only thing to commend itself is the fact that the gate receipts are greatly increased. The greatest objection to holding joint fairs is the fact that in the great majority of cases there are too many counter attractions, and difficulty is found in carrying out the well-arranged program for the entertainment and especially the education of the children. With this plan, the school fair would more or less lose its identity and defeat some of the objects for which it was originally formed, namely, to give inspiration and create greater interest, broadly speaking, in agriculture.

The department feels that school fairs should be held separately and distinct from county or township fairs. In some communities, however, the local people feel that the two can be combined quite nicely and in order to guard against the objections raised, the department insisted that where the fall fairs held under the auspices of the agricultural societies and the

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The growth of the movement can best be gleaned from the following figures given in approximately seven-year periods:

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school fairs are conducted jointly the following conditions must be complied with:

1. Prize List.—That the list of classes for the Rural School Fair, prepared by the Agricultural Representative and the Rural School Fair Association, be included in the regular prize list of the Agricultural Society.

That one copy of this prize list be distributed to each pupil or one copy to each family or household in the Rural School Fair Association.

That the prize list be issued not later than June 1. Where it is impossible to issue the regular Agricultural Society Prize List by this date the Society should issue a separate School Fair prize list for early distribution.

2. Finances.—That the Agricultural Society supply half the prize money, such sum not to exceed \$75, for these classes and that the sum be paid in cash to the manager or secretary of the Rural School Fair Association prior to the fair.

3. Accommodation.—That the Agricultural Society supply suitable building or tent accommodation for displaying the pupils' exhibits, together with tables and poultry coops, and have same in readiness the day previous to the fair. Where this equipment is supplied by the Department of Agriculture, the Agricultural Society must pay transportation and cartage charges, and furnish help to erect the tents.

That suitable field accommodation, properly enclosed, be definitely assigned to the Rural School Fair for the purpose of holding sports, parades, judging of live stock.

That a program for the day be decided upon by the Agricultural Society officials and Agricultural Representative to avoid clashing of events.

4. Admission.—That all pupils and teachers in the schools taking part in the Rural School Fair be given free admission to the fair.

5. Judges.—That the Agricultural Society supply judges for exhibits such as poultry, live stock, vegetables, grains, etc., satisfactory to the Department.

6. Protection.—(Constables).—That the Agricultural Society supply protection for Rural School Fair exhibits.

New Features.
A successful school fair must have something new and worth while each year. The pupils demand change in order to keep up interest. Sports are merely an added attraction. Last year many Representatives conducted some competition that was entirely new to the children, such as judging competitions for teams of three boys in live stock, and for three girls in sewing or darning, individual competitions in naming weeds, apples, vegetables, and live stock, the latter from pictures; chicken plucking, boys' riding, girls' hitching and driving, public speaking, and singing, competitions and Strathcona Drill, and school fair parade. Not all of these contests can be carried out at any one fair, but a few new "stunts" each year add interest and keep up the enthusiasm of the children.

The Home Garden Contests.
The Home Garden contest is primarily intended for the teen-age boys and girls on the farm. Sufficient seed is given each contestant to plant a plot 30x40 ft. The crops grown are as follows: tomatoes, corn, cabbage, peas, beans, onions, radish, lettuce, parsnips, beets, carrots, Swiss chard, cucumbers, squash, citron, and spinach.

A special pamphlet, showing the crop arrangement, plan of garden, and giving cultural instructions is handed each contestant. Each contest comprises 25 gardens. During the past season the competitors paid the cost price of the seeds, namely 75 cents, and in all there were 75 Home Garden contests, including 1,875 pupils.

During the months of July and August, the Agricultural Representatives inspected the gardens and awarded prizes for the best gardens. In addition special prizes were offered at the school fair and local fall fair for exhibits of vegetables from the home gardens. Last year competitors were required to can products from their gardens and exhibit these at the fairs along with the fresh vegetables. This year it is planned to make canning optional.

The object of these Home Gardens is to interest boys and girls in better agriculture and encourage the use of more vegetables in the farm home. It is truly surprising what can be grown in a small garden, and after allowing the family free use of the vegetables grown many of the boys managed to dispose of the surplus products and made a little pin money. They were thus able to thoroughly enjoy spending a little money earned by the exercise of their own skill. These early lessons in finance should stand them in good stead.

THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

A Good Set of Rules

Here is a set of rules which every girl would do well to follow:

Be brave. Courage is the noblest of all gifts.

Be silent while your elders are speaking, and otherwise show them deference.

Obeys. Obedience is the first duty of every girl.

Be clean. Both yourself and the place you live in.

Be the friend of all harmless wild life. Conserve the woods and flowers and especially be ready to fight wild fire in forest or town.

Word of honor is sacred.

Play fair. Foul play is treachery.

Be reverent.

Be kind. Do at least one act of unobtrusive service every day.

Be helpful. Do your share of the work.

Be joyful. Seek the joy of being alive.

During Vacation Days

You will doubtless have an opportunity during vacation days to scatter seeds of kindness while on your vacation by showing your interest in all animal life. Interest others in this cause of mercy, justice and kindness to every living creature.

Protect dogs and cats from ill-treatment. Give them food and water and a comfortable place to sleep.

Discourage nest-robbing boys among your companions.

Horses and cows will enjoy better health and do better work if they are groomed every day.

It is cruel to carry fowls with their heads downward and their feet tied together.

Fish should be killed as soon as taken out of the water by a sharp blow on the back of the head. Such fish keep better and are better to eat.

POULTRY

A good ration for young ducklings is a mash made of two parts cornmeal and one part bran, to which is added a sprinkling of grit and five per cent. beef scrap. They should have plenty of green food, such as lawn clippings or vegetables, and given a range where they can gather green food. Give fresh water in dishes deep enough so they can cover their nostrils with water when drinking.

Shade should be provided for ducklings. A lack of protection from the hot sun causes severe losses during the summer. The old ducks can be given a ration of equal parts of bran, cornmeal, and boiled vegetables, and ten per cent. beef scrap. The mash is usually given at night and morning.

A scratch grain of either cracked corn or wheat and oats can be given at noon. During the laying season a good ration for breeding ducks consists of equal parts of low-grade flour, bran, cornmeal, vegetables and twelve per cent. beef scrap.

A good range is rather essential if ducks are raised at a moderate cost. A small body of water is helpful because of the natural food of ducks, such as grasses and insects which will be found in such a place. Water is not necessary, however, except that it must be supplied abundantly for drinking purposes.

Missing

"Children," said the Sunday school teacher, "this picture illustrates today's lesson. Lot was warned to take his wife and daughters and flee out of Sodom. Here are Lot and his daughters, with his wife just behind them, and there is Sodom in the background. Now has any girl or boy a question to ask before we take the study of the lesson? Well, Susie?"

"Please, thir," lisped the youngest in the class, "where 'th the flea?"

Parents as Educators

Hungry Children—By Lydia Lion Roberts

A mother was looking over a box of old photographs and her little boy was an interested watcher by her side. As one picture came into view the boy exclaimed, "Whenever I see a picture of Auntie Gertrude it makes me feel hungry." Afterwards he explained that it was because she brought him so many good things to eat.

The Aunt referred to was a very busy woman, yet she always managed to find time to slip a gingerbread man, or a popcorn ball, or a surprise package into her bag for the children where she visited. Another child never forgot a basket trimmed with colored tissue paper, holding some baked cookies, that her aunt brought to her after she had been sick.

Food plays an important part in a child's life and a mother may teach by it as well as by other things. All children love surprises, and little faces brighten on stormy days when a raisin cake baked in their own little pan appears, or a lunch-box dinner is placed on the playroom table with dainty sandwiches and fruit, and maybe a bit of candy or a few nuts. Any little boy or girl likes to learn to cook when mother is cooking, and though that is not an especially good time for mother in one way, yet in another way it is the best time for children are happy when busy and learned together.

learn quickly when interested. When mother makes bread the little tot should have a ball of dough and a raisin or a bit of jam to make a biscuit. If the child has dishes big enough, and this is important, for there should be a small pan or unbreakable dish to do the cooking in, the work can be done exactly as mother does it, and therefrom come the first lessons in cooking.

"I could turn those doughnuts," suggested a small boy to his grand-mother, who was making the toothsome goodies. She started to turn him away as she was busy and a bit nervous, but thought better of it and showed the child just how carefully it must be done. Consequently he turned every single one in a most grown-up way, and informed the family proudly that night "Grandma and I made doughnuts to-day."

The ten cent store has many a small tin and enamel pan that would make a start towards a little girl's cooking, and would give her much pleasure. It is charged with "the cure of souls," and profit she learned to take care of the pans and to cook simple things in them. The best way of all is to suggest to a child that a biscuit be made for daddy's supper, or a tiny nut cake as a surprise for a playmate. Thus the lessons in cooking and giving help are unobtrusive and unselfishness are saved life kills" (Davidson).

V. 18. He is to go out after the wicked and admonish them. If he does and the wicked man and the wicked woman die in his sins, then the prophet is counted. "He that fails to bring, planning, and unselfishness are saved life kills" (Davidson).

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The Dairy

The easiest way to raise a calf is by feeding it whole milk. This probably will produce the best calf, but not necessarily the best dairy cow. Feeding skim-milk to the calf after it has secured a proper start may give as good a cow as the feeding of whole milk, but the process requires greater care.

For the first few days, the calf should run with its mother, after which it should be removed and fed warm fresh whole milk by hand. This should be continued for ten days or two weeks at least. The length of time it should be continued depends upon the vigor of the young animal. From ten to twelve pounds of this milk should be fed per day, in three feeds at first, but this number may later be reduced to two.

The skim-milk is then introduced gradually and a period of about two weeks should be required before the calf is placed entirely upon its new feed. The skim-milk should be sweet and warm when fed. Cold sour milk is the greatest cause of scours. Continue the skim-milk for at least five months and it may be fed for six or seven months, depending upon the supply. As soon as the calf is old enough to eat substitute feeds they should be given.

Handling Cream on the Farm

The low price of milk the past year has caused a great many farmers to separate their milk on the farm, feeding the skim-milk to hogs, calves and poultry and selling the cream. I have been following this practice of handling my milk the past year and believe it is more profitable than to sell the milk. We have all the milk we can use for feeding purposes and feel sure it is worth a considerable more than the labor involved and cost of machinery for separating.

The problem of keeping cream in good condition during the hot weather months is not a difficult one to solve on the farm. Cream should be delivered at least twice a week during the summer season. In excessive hot weather three times a week is more advisable.

As soon as cream is separated it should be placed in cool water and kept at low temperature. A cooling tank conveniently located near the well between the pump and large stock tank in order that water may be pumped through the cooling tank. The cooling tank should be protected from the sun.

Never mix warm and cool cream. Cool the freshly separated cream to about the same temperature as the cream you wish to mix it with. Do not put freshly separated cream into an ice box or refrigerator until first cooled in water to get rid of the animal heat. Frequent stirring of cream while cooling will aid in removing the animal heat. It also is good practice to stir the cream at least three times daily to prevent lumps forming and also to give the cream a uniform body.

Cream should contain from thirty-two to forty-five per cent. butter-fat. Thin cream deteriorates more rapidly than thick cream. However, if the cream is too thick there is considerable waste from transferring from one can to another at the creamery.

All cans and utensils used in handling cream should be thoroughly washed and scalded. Do not keep the cream tightly covered at any time. While storing cream keep it in a clean, well-ventilated place.

Some conception of the magnitude of the canning industry in British Columbia may be obtained from the fact that 10,000 tons of Welsh tin-plate has just been received for the season's trade.

Honor and humility belong together. The vain girl who thinks always of herself, misses the path of leadership.

SMOKE OLD CHUM

The Tobacco of Quality
1/2 LB. TINS
and in packages

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

JULY 2

Ezekiel, the Watchman of Israel, Ezek. 2: 1-16; 3: 17-21. Golden Text—Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.—Isa. 55: 6, 7.

Lesson Foreword—Ezekiel, who was of a priestly family, was carried into exile to Babylonia with the first captives in B.C. 597. His prophetic ministry was thus devoted to the exiles in Babylonia and he did much to help them bear the sorrows of exile and to keep in remembrance the religion of their fathers when surrounded with a great pagan religion and civilization. His style is precise and somewhat formal; his prophecies are filled with all manner of strange symbols, sometimes weird and sometimes truly sublime.

I. Ezekiel's Call, ch. 2: 1-6.

V. 1. He said, That is God. In the preceding chapter, Ezekiel tells of his inaugural vision of God. At this vision Ezekiel fell prostrate and now the silence is broken. God speaks: Son of man, Ezekiel uses this expression about a hundred times, applying it to himself. It denotes his sense of human frailty and nothingness in contrast to the ineffable majesty of God. Stand upon thy feet. This command was given because God wishes to announce to him that by his prophetic commission he was to be elevated to a position of dignity and brought into closer relation to God and the rest of his fellow exiles.

V. 2. The spirit entered into me. Unable to raise himself, the Spirit of God came upon him and lifted him bodily upon his feet. The spirit of God is conceived throughout the Old Testament, as filling men with unique power. Ezekiel has many experiences with the divine Spirit. It sometimes came upon him violently and transported him in vision to the land of Israel; at other times it filled him with great rapture.

V. 3. He is commissioned to declare the message of God to his people. The children of Israel are now described that the prophet may be under no illusions regarding them. They are the rebellious children of rebellious fathers.

V. 4. Impudent children and stiff-hearted, literally "hard-faced and stubborn-hearted." They have a disposition towards disobedience and perversity which renders them hard to reason with. Thus saith the Lord, Ezekiel is to make known to them that he speaks authoritatively as the prophet.

V. 5. Whether they forbear. He is to continue to admonish them whether they will hear him or not. They hath been a prophet among them. Eventually they will realize that the one whom God sends is really a prophet.

V. 6. Ezekiel is not to be daunted by the opposition of the people. They may persecute him in word and deed but he must not be discouraged. Briers and thorns, symbols of the opposition and persecution the prophet may expect to encounter" (McAden).

V. 7. A more precise description of the prophet's work is now given. He is charged with "the cure of souls." It is worth noting that Ezekiel's work is not with crowds, but with individuals.

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V. 19. If thou warned the wicked, in

this case the prophet had discharged his duty and even though the wicked continue in sin, no blame can be attached to the watchman.

Application. "Watchman, what of the night?" Every one is saying, these are strange new times, and it is true. And "new occasions, teach new duties." There is always a "present crisis." Lothhouse, in his recent vivid book on Ezekiel, is worth quoting here: "There has never been a time when, by a careful observer, a change could not be seen passing over the spirit of the world—the true of the downfall of the Roman Empire in the fifth century; the rise of the new conception of European unity under Charlemagne; the period of the invention of gunpowder; the fall of Constantinople; and the discovery of the new world at the close of the Middle Ages. Every generation is pregnant with possibilities of blessing or disaster. Ideals are always at stake. But for our own age this much can be said. The state was never so great, or so widely realized. Nothing seems too good to be hoped for, nothing too evil to be feared."

In such a situation as the present, where shall we find our true prophet? "Should not a people seek unto their God?" To the law and the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

What Trees to Plant.

For Ontario conditions the following tree-planting guide is offered as regards selection of trees to suit local soil and moisture conditions:

Good sandy loams—Sugar maple, black walnut, pin oak, white ash, red oak.

Good medium loams—White ash, white elm, sugar maple, black locust, black walnut, butternut, soft or silver maple, white oak, native plane, Oriental plane, native basswood, Norway maple, red oak.

Good clay loams—Soft or silver maple, white elm, white ash.

Low lying wet soils—Soft maple, pin oak, native basswood, white elm, native plane.

Swampy conditions—Native willows and native poplars, pin oak, if condition is not too bad.

It is not cowardly to avoid unnecessary risks.

Swat the fly before she raises a big family.

Amsterdam is cut by canals into ninety islands connected by 300 bridges.

Lime-sulphur glue is easier to make and to apply than self-boiled lime-sulphur, and it is said to get brown rot and scab and to color the fruit just as well. Ask the County Representative about it.