

Pros and Cons of Consolidated Schools

By Samuel Farmer, Pres. of Canadian School Trustees' Ass'n.

As one travels through the rural districts, both good, bad and fair schools can be found. Some of them are in excellent condition and are quite a credit to the community others should make trustees who are responsible for them ashamed; but apparently they do not. It must be quite a problem for three men to be entirely responsible for the upkeep of their local school. Always there is the protest of those who look upon the spending of money as an imposition that should not be tolerated. Always there are those who consider that what was "good enough" for Dad and Mother should be good enough for the youngsters. Recently this kind of argument was used by the trustees of a school that had not had a new floor for over fifty years. The inspector pointed out that the trustees had made many improvements in their homes during that time; but the floor remained about the same, except for the inevitable wear and tear which a school floor must endure, making knots into little hills surrounded by well worn valleys. The floor was renewed.

Rural schools were generally first placed in such clearings as contained settlers of the more progressive type. When the forest was completely cut down, it was often found that the school had been built without relation to meeting the needs of the school population in the community. Some schools are close together; some far apart. Some schools have a big school population; others serve but very few children. Because of the comparatively few people who are actually interested in these little schools, it frequently happens that they become neglected and ill-equipped. What is more to the point is the fact that in many cases there is a duplication of educational plant that would be considered quite unwarranted in any other line of business.

Consolidation of schools has, in many cases, proved to be the way out of these difficulties, and were the matter of consolidation to be weighed wholly upon its merits we believe that this method of providing school facilities for children would be the general practice, where roads and geographical conditions permitted of the consolidation. That this is not the case and that consolidation might be termed "unpopular" in rural Ontario—these are facts that must be admitted.

Frankly, one is led to the conclusion that the unpopularity of consolidated schools is due to two facts, one of which is good, and the other of which is bad. The first fact is the undoubted loyalty of the people to their home school. It is theirs and they have not the slightest intention of giving it up. Where that loyalty goes a little further and keep the schools in proper condition, there are cases where consolidation would be unnecessary. The second fact is that sectional jealousy often stands in the way of educational progress.

The general arguments used against consolidation are these:

1. The people lose control of their schools.
2. This is the first step to take the children off the farm.
3. It is too costly.
4. Transportation of children is both difficult, expensive, and unpleasant for the children.

If people would study the actual records of the twenty-eight Consolidated Schools in the province of Ontario, they would find that in the case of at least three of these arguments, the facts are to the contrary. Consolidated schools are very little more expensive. Transportation is neither very difficult or expensive; and the trustees are still the responsible connecting link between the department of education and the ratepayers.

The first argument, that consolidated schools rob the people of local control, is an entire misunderstanding of this case. Where there are consolidated schools, there is nearly always a live community spirit, and the pride in the school and all that it represents. The inspector meets with the trustees of these schools more frequently than is the case with the smaller schools. As is quite natural, he gives greater consideration to the larger school and has a pride in keeping it and its work in good condition. More than that a consolidated school is much in the pub-

lic eye and everything that goes on there is common property. There can neither be neglect of the school nor abuse of power, without the whole community knowing all about it.

Taking the second argument, that the consolidated school is the first step to induce the children to leave the farm; it must be remembered, that several other factors enter into this condition and that the school really has a minor part in the problem. Parents, who say that farming is one of the worst occupations and that they do not want to see their children have to work as hard as the old folks such parents are those who start the trek to the city.

Parents who accept the services of their grown children with little or no pay are responsible for dissatisfaction and the determination to leave the farm. It is quite true that farming has its problems and that it often happens that the profits are quite out of keeping with the labour involved in producing goods for market. In any case there is more opportunity to remedy unsuitable courses of study in a consolidated school than there is in the average one-room rural school. Please remember that troubles are not all to be found in rural districts.

In a future article the third and fourth arguments will be discussed and the figures given.

Summer Stains

It is indeed a mercy that we wear washing frocks so much during the summer months, for summer pastimes and outdoor amusements seem to ask for trouble. But some stains will not even come out with washing. Grass stains, fruit stains, tea stains, tar stains, all appear mysteriously from nowhere, but cannot be persuaded to vanish quite so mysteriously. Most of these stains should be treated before the frock is washed.

Grass stains or any green plant stains should be treated with alcohol. The green coloring matter will then disappear and the article should be washed.

Borax is invaluable for most fruit stains. Stretch the stained part tight over a small basin of hot water. Sprinkle borax over the stain, allow it to get a little damp, then rub gently round and round till the stain disappears.

Tea stains are easily removed if treated at once, and washed in the ordinary way. Old or strong tea stains, like fruit stains, generally respond to a little treatment with borax.

Tar can generally be removed with benzol. With all stains, however, as prompt action as possible is advisable. A stain left to work its own sweet will, like a spoiled child, becomes obstinate.



Umpire: "Take your base."
Little Eph: "What for?"
Umpire: "Why dat ball hit you on de head."
Little Eph: "Did it?"

Ideas in Advertising

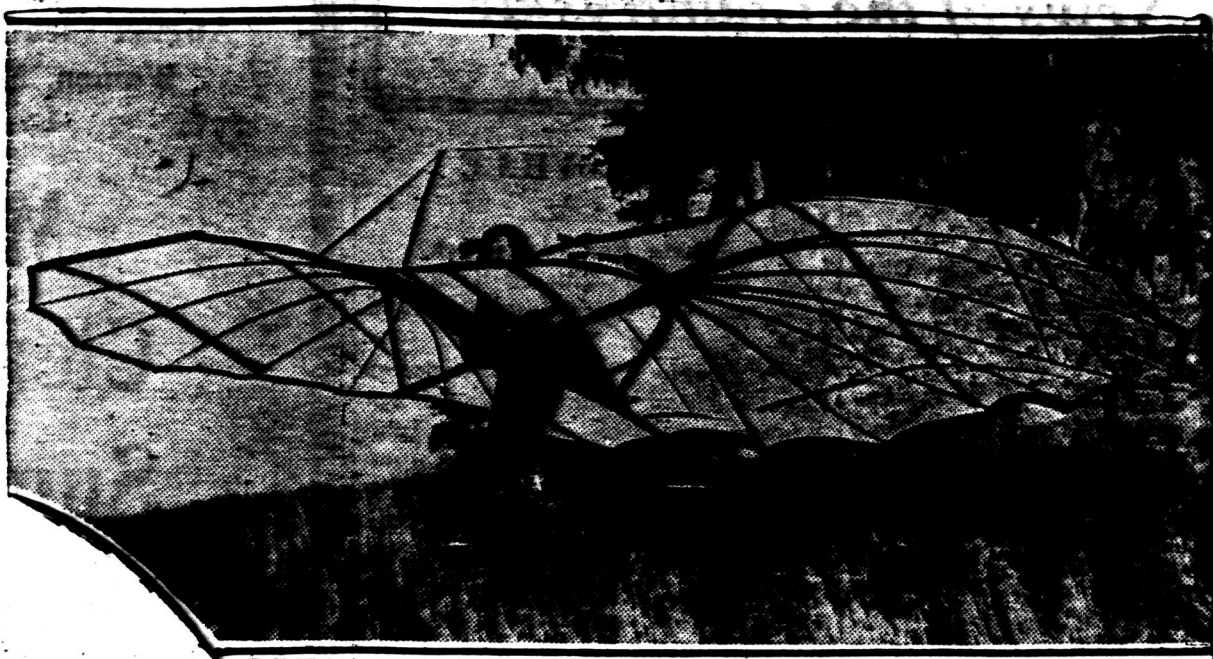
A new device for aerial advertising was demonstrated at Hanworth Air Park, England, recently.

It consists of a banner trailed behind an aeroplane, and kept in one position and prevented from twisting or furling by means of a paravane. The legend on the banner could be clearly read from the ground when the plane was at a height of about 3,000 feet.

All sorts of advertising ideas are used nowadays. A London (Eng.) firm of manufacturers of the new steel furniture has arranged a window display, which consists of a steel helmet, such as was worn by our troops in the trenches, in front, and behind it steel arms of steel chairs and so on.

Attached to the steel helmet is the legend: "Did good work in 1914," and to the furniture: "Doing good work today."—Answers.

Day-Like Glider



Glider, constructed by Hans Richter, after design of Herr Lillenthal, glider pioneer, with girl pupil at spot where Lillenthal was killed 50 years ago.

Sunday School Lesson

August 24. Lesson VIII—Jonathan and David (A Noble Friendship)—1 Samuel 18: 1-4; 20: 14-17, 22-34, 41, 42; 2 Samuel 1: 25-27. Golden Text—A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly, and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Proverbs 18: 24.

ANALYSIS

- I. A COVENANT OF FRIENDSHIP, 1 Sam. 18: 1-4; 19: 1-7.
- II. FRIENDSHIP PUT TO THE TEST, chap. 20.
- III. A TRIBUTE OF LOVE, 2 Sam. 1: 27.

INTRODUCTION—Jonathan first appears in the history as his father's lieutenant commanding the garrison in Gibeon his native place, and taking a leading part in daring and successful enterprises against the Philistine enemy, 13: 1-16. Brave and generous, beloved by his soldiers, he is quick to recognize in David a kindred spirit when he meets him after the slaying of Goliath, 18: 1-4. There is no finer example in literature or history of disinterested and loyal friendship. The character of Jonathan stands out with especial brightness, the very perfect, gentle knight, without fear and without reproach, the "friend that sticketh closer than a brother."

- I. A COVENANT OF FRIENDSHIP, 1 Sam. 18: 1-4; 19: 1-7.

The word "covenant" in the Hebrew language means a "bond." It appears often in the Old Testament, and is used by an oath into which men or nations enter with each other, or which, figuratively speaking, a man or nation may make with God. The parties who enter freely into such a bond or covenant become bound by every obligation of truth and honor to keep it. Such was the bond of friendship made between these two high-spirited and generous youths on the field where they had won so notable a victory. And "the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." It was a dramatic but very sincere impulse of this warm affection which moved the young prince to doff his robe and bestow it upon the shepherd lad, "and his apparel, even to his sword, his bow, and his girdle."

There are two stories told of David's first meeting with Saul. First, in 1 Samuel, chap. 16, where David is brought to the king as a "cunning player on the harp," and we are told that Saul "loved him greatly; and he became his armor-bearer." The second is the well known story of Saul's meeting with the young champion who volunteered to fight the giant Goliath. But now we read of David's growing popularity and Saul's jealousy (18: 6-16), a jealousy which, in the king's disordered mind, became a murderous hatred. It was at this time that Jonathan's friendship was put to the most severe test. He "delighted much in David," and warned him of his father's purpose to kill him. At the same time he "spoke good of David" to his father and pleaded David's cause so successfully that for a time Saul's jealous wrath was turned aside, 19: 1-7.

- II. FRIENDSHIP PUT TO THE TEST, chap. 20.

The reconciliation with Saul which Jonathan had effected did not last very long. Saul's jealous madness re-

turned upon him. No doubt it was aggravated by some deep-seated mental disorder, "an evil spirit from the Lord," as it appeared to the men of that age. Again he sought to kill David, but David, aided by his wife Michal, Saul's daughter, escaped and found refuge with Samuel at Ramah. Afterwards, we are told, there was another meeting with Jonathan and a passionate protest by David, "What have I done? What is mine iniquity? and what is my sin before thy father that he seeketh my life? It is true that David remembered and Jonathan also knew of Samuel's act of choosing and anointing David to be Saul's successor on the throne of Israel. Jonathan might very well have aspired himself to such a position, but he chose to step aside and yield the succession to his friend (see 23: 16-18). Jonathan at first refused to believe that his father still purposed the death of David, but was convinced by Saul's conduct at the feast of the new moon. Apparently the king, his ministers of state, and his chief captain were expected to be there. On the second day of the feast David's absence was noticed by the king whose furious anger blazed forth against Jonathan when he endeavored to apologize for him. Meeting in secret before and after this feast the friends renewed their covenant and oath.

III. A TRIBUTE OF LOVE, 2 Sam. 1: 17-27.

Saul's last battle was fought in Mount Gilboa. There Saul himself, Jonathan, and two other of Saul's sons, fell bravely fighting for the freedom of their country from the invading hosts of the Philistines. What ever Saul's faults and failings as man and as king, they were, in some measure at least, atoned for by the manner of his death. David remembered only his virtues and his former kindness, and paid his tribute of honor and of love to the dead in an ode of noble simplicity and power:

"O Judah, to your crying! O Israel, to your grief and woe! On your battlefields the slain are lying, and heroes, alas! fallen low. Saul and Jonathan, loved and lovely, never divided in life or in death! Swifter than eagles, stronger than lions! Jonathan slain on the field of battle, my heart is sore for you; O Jonathan, my brother! You were my dear delight. Your love for me was a wonder, far beyond a woman's love."
—Moffat's Translation.

Thoughts

Thoughts are brief elusive things, Swift to come, as swift to go, Like a butterfly's soft wings Flitting to and fro.

Some are rosy-tinted, fair, Iridescent, golden-bright, Thoughts that mortals ill can spare, Each a pure delight.

Some are gloomy, sullen, grey, Thoughts which sadden and oppress, Fret, disquiet, and dismay, Fill with fearfulness.

Some are tender, kind, and sweet, Some are wise and some are vain— Good and bad alike they meet In a busy brain.

"You know, Mamie, I wish I'd saved one of those old dollar bills just for fun." "Oh, I thought of that. I saved one." "Gee, where'd you put it so you wouldn't spend it?" "In the bank, of course."

What New York Is Wearing

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The modern type of light aeroplane has an average cruising speed of about ninety-five miles an hour.

Study of Soil Will Aid Farm Industry

Top Layer Passes Through Youth, Maturity and Old Age

New York.—The top layer of the soil, in which most plants grow, passes through a process of evolution from youth, through maturity, to old age, according to Dr. F. Marbut, of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Marbut, as a result of the surveys, points out that soil not only is a product of its environment, but in turn reacts upon and determines the character of its environment.

"The forces residing in climate and organic life are largely the dynamic factors of the soil environment," he said. "During the first stages of soil evolution the plants which grow in any location have more influence on the soil than the soil has on the plant. But later on the situation is reversed."

"The adaptability of a given region, therefore, for a given crop and the possibility of growing any variety of crop, especially the type of crops required for economic conditions, are all dependent on the characteristics of the soil," said Dr. Marbut. In the opinion of experts, the importance of governmental soil surveys as part of the activities of the Department of Agriculture are quite evident. During the last twenty-five years the scientific methods of soil research have become standardized.

Soil surveying in North America and Europe consist of research into the chemical and other characteristics of the soil and into their relation to their environment. These surveys are expressed in the form of a map.

"It is the only line of research in which the soil is studied in relation to the plant coverage and in which a correlation is made between the characteristics and successful growth of given plants, and the characteristics of a given type of soil," he said. He declared it is desirable that there be conducted forest irrigation and pastoral surveys to be used to classify public lands, as well as soil surveys for establishing international co-operation in agriculture.

Children Taught Farming in School

Adelaide, S. Aust.—Elementary agriculture is being taught in 190 South Australia schools, and there are 3280 children receiving instruction from 807 qualified teachers.

"There is no doubt that the practical and experimental work done in the school gardens has a direct relation to the more important primary industries of the State and to local requirements," Malcolm M. McIntosh, Minister of Agriculture, said recently. Mr. McIntosh says that another helpful institution is the seed wheat collection competition. By this arrangement, children learn the advantages of collecting seed wheat each year, and at the same time reap the profit that may be made from an acre of crop.

An increase has been shown in the number of schools at which agriculture is being taught. The number of project clubs and the amount of projects worked have also increased.

The agricultural course in the high schools is intended to stem the great drift to the city, encourage boys to go to the country and develop the land, and to influence those with a leaning toward rural life. In primary schools, agriculture is being taught wherever suitable land is available for practical experimental work.

"The age of our grandfathers is thought of as the Golden Age just because of the effacing hand of time,"—Emil Ludwig.

"One inside and one out," cried the busy conductor as the crowded "bus pulled into the kerbside. A stout woman, accompanied by a smaller replica of herself, clambered on the first step. "Surely you wouldn't separate a mother from her daughter?" she asked as the conductor motioned the girl upstairs. "Never again, lady," he snapped, giving the bell a violent tug. "Never again, lady. I did it once and have been sorry ever since."

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER



Cross Word Puzzle Workers Jeff and Guss seem to be Squirrel