

# RURAL SCHOOL CHILDREN SCIENTIFIC FARMERS

IN the Cook County, Illinois, schools they learn arithmetic, marketing, household chemistry, dairying and other important studies by working out practical problems in everyday life. Opportunity for our children.



Robert H. Moulton  
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WHEN little Johnnie Jones of Niles Center, Cook county, Ill., reaches the little red schoolhouse these fine mornings he does not place a big red apple on the desk of dear teacher. Instead, Johnnie takes a couple of fresh eggs from each pocket of his coat.

Behind a table at the front of the schoolroom the secretary of the boy's egg club is waiting. On each egg, as it is brought in, is written the number of its owner and the date it was laid. And during each school day the eggs are packed and sent by parcel post to one of the club's customers in Chicago.

The arithmetic lesson in several of the Cook county rural schools now consists in keeping books on the receipts and sales of fresh eggs by members of the egg clubs.

Once a week, instead of the old-fashioned review of lessons, in which the pupils had not the slightest interest, the weekly remittance for egg shipments is received and divided by the boys among themselves in proportion to the number of eggs each has contributed. To them the study of arithmetic has become a very real, important and interesting matter. All through the 150 rural schools of Cook county the same new spirit of life has been put into the dry bones of study.

Boys and girls are studying botany, for instance, by testing the seed corn which their fathers are planning to plant next spring; that brings in again the study of percentage. And when father is shown that, on the average, only 63 per cent of his proposed seed corn will actually germinate, he is likely to get a new idea of and a new interest in the country school.

There are few things of which Chicago has a greater right to be proud than that the rural schools of the county in which it is located are probably the most advanced and progressive country schools in the United States. The division of these schools into five districts, with a trained teacher, who is also a graduate of an agricultural college, at the head of each as director of rural life and of schools, has proved a tremendous step in advance.

County Superintendent of Schools Tobin, who persuaded the county board to make an appropriation of \$10,000 to cover the salaries of the five rural life directors for this year, has just received the reports of these directors covering the work done during the fall and early winter months. To read them is to wish that one might be again a country-school boy going down the long road every morning to the little red schoolhouse.

Almost every schoolhouse has been a social center for the rural community of which it is the center. Gas and wood ranges have been put in many schools and the girl pupils prepare hot lunches every day for all the pupils. They demonstrate their skill in household chemistry, also, by preparing and serving on special occasions dinners at which their parents are the guests of honor.

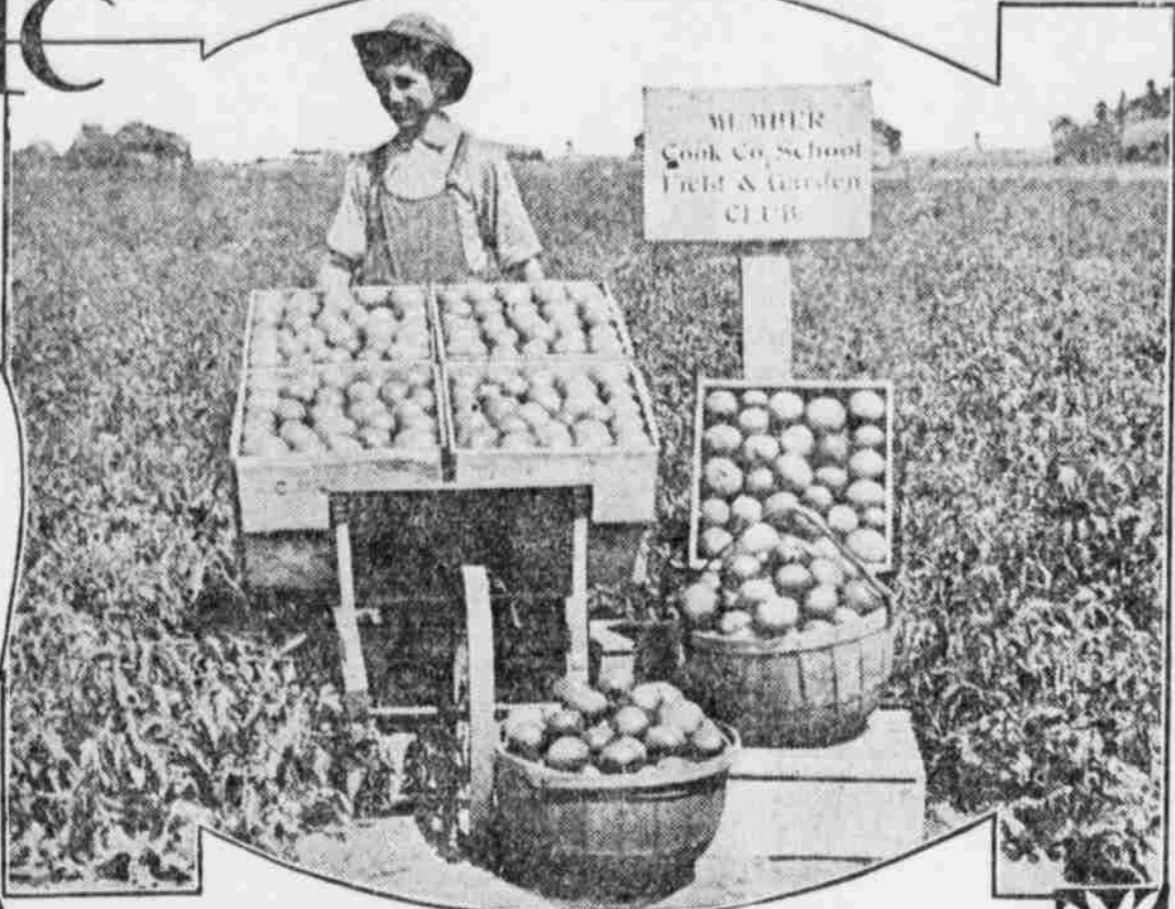
Day after day the boys and girls bring samples of milk to school and test them with a milk tester for richness in butterfat. After a series of such tests they are able to help their fathers decide which cows are worth keeping and which are only unprofitable "boarders."

In many neighborhoods the parents of the pupils have been organized into agricultural clubs and have begun to take an active and eager interest in all the work of the school. On the long winter evenings the parents and pupils have frequently met in one of the schoolhouses to take part in and watch an old-fashioned spelling bee, based on lists of 500 common words sent out at the beginning of the year by the county superintendent.

Especially interesting and important is the plan to keep the schools—or at least the school activities—in evidence all through the summer months. With that end in view, a large number of garden clubs were organized a year ago, on a basis which would keep the children interested, enable them to apply their newly acquired knowledge, and put a more or less definite financial reward up for them to try for.

Each member of one of the country school garden clubs rented from his parents last spring, at the regular rate prevailing in the neighborhood, a small piece of land for cultivation of which he was to be entirely responsible. All the money resulting from the sale of garden products grown on that piece of land was to belong to him.

By way of adding additional zest to the competition among the schools and among the individual pupils, a series of prizes were awarded re-



WALTER WARHENTHEIN CLEARED \$100 ON TOMATOES



ELMER GROSS RAISED BEANS, RADISHES AND ONIONS, EARNING \$97



MADEI, BAIKIAN SPECIALIZED IN ASTERS AND RECEIVED \$62.50

cently for the garden club work done last summer. There were five prizes of \$100 in gold each, one awarded to that school in each of the five divisions which stood first in the progress it had made in agricultural education and in the results of its agricultural work. This money will be spent in the purchase of an agricultural library, a Babcock tester, a vegetable canning outfit, or some other agricultural apparatus which is to become a part of the permanent equipment of the school.

There were also awarded five silver cups, one for the pupil, boy or girl, in each of the five divisions who secured the best and biggest results in the actual agricultural work undertaken as part of the school course. It is a striking evidence of the cosmopolitan character of the population of Chicago and Cook county that the individual prize winners among the rural school pupils for the year 1915 should be, respectively, of German, Italian, Dutch, and Hungarian parentage. There is not a Yankee among the lot.

The prize rural school of the whole county is undoubtedly that in Niles township. Every pupil in this school, which was taught by Seth Shepherd, individually planted and took care of a garden or raised a field crop of some kind. Each

pupil also kept an exact account of his expenses, including rent for the land occupied, and, after selling his product, figured his gross receipts and net profits.

The twenty-nine pupils of this school, whose ages range between ten and fourteen years, earned between them a net profit of \$1,185.25, with total expenses of \$191. The largest amounts earned by individuals were \$105.10 and \$102.16, and it is noteworthy that in each case the successful pupil was a girl.

Little Alma Kutz, thirteen years of age, the first prize winner, made her money from the sale of tomatoes and asters grown on one-eighth of an acre. All the work of planting and harvesting the crops she did herself, with the exception of the first plowing of the land early in the spring. She prepared hotbeds for her tomato plants, and made a covering of window glass for them. Next she bought 200 small flowerpots, and when the tomato plants were well up transplanted them into the pots.

While the plants were growing she marked off the plot into rows thirty inches apart, and a short time later transplanted the tomato plants from the pots to the plot. The next few weeks she was busy cultivating the plants, keeping the rows entirely free of weeds. When the plants had spread out so much that she could not hoe them any more she went between the rows and pulled out the weeds with her hands.

About the twentieth of June there were many nice ripe tomatoes on the vines and she gathered her first box, which she sold for \$1. As fast as the tomatoes ripened she picked them and packed them carefully into crates, and every day her father carried them in to the Chicago market along with products from his own truck garden. In all she gathered 225 boxes of tomatoes, which brought her \$113.

On a part of her plot she planted asters late in the season and from the sale of these she realized \$9, finding a ready market for all she could offer to the florist shops of Chicago. The flowers were shipped in fresh by parcel post each evening. Her total expenses were \$16.90 for the two crops, thus leaving her a net profit of \$105.10. This money she has loaned to her father at 6 per cent interest, and she expects next season to double the amount of her land and her income.

## American Patience Tried

The friendship of the United States is one of the greatest assets of the British, according to Sir Gilbert Parker, who in the course of a recent interview had much praise for the American government and the policy it has adopted in the present war. He said in part:

"There has never been a war in modern times when a neutral nation did not challenge a belligerent nation because of its interference with neutral rights. The United States has certainly been greatly tried by our orders in council. There has been, indeed, a series of difficulties. In this business of neutral rights the American people have been called the pedants. There may be pedants among them, but beneath all is a deep-seated respect for international law, for the keeping of treaties, for a perfect observance of the rules of civilization.

"From the beginning I have thought that the United States took a course almost inevitable in her position. Here is a conglomerate population. The war was a European business. What did we do in 1870 when France, our then friend, was set upon by Germany? The American people loathe war; so far they have stood out; only an overpowering sense of duty would drive them into war.

"We have sensationalized our own shortcomings; we have overemphasized our own stolidity; we have had our family jars in public; we have, to paraphrase a mordant epigram, wheeled our council table into the street apparently indifferent to the fact that neutral nations like the United

States were being influenced against us by evidence provided by ourselves.

"They are not averse to their government bringing pressure to bear upon Great Britain in regard to the blockade and all the questions involved in it; but war against Great Britain has never been in their minds, while at the same time there were circumstances which might very easily have drawn them into war with Germany after the sinking of the Lusitania. They have not forgotten Manila and what the British fleet did there, in aid of Admiral Dewey, to defeat German purposes against the United States.

"I think the governments of both countries have preserved the very highest traditions of diplomacy. Never has diplomatic correspondence been maintained on a higher level, and never the firm thing said with greater good feeling on both sides.

"We have tried our friends in the United States greatly; we have tested their confidence in us to the full.

"We shall do well to remember that the people of the United States must, sooner or later, be a vast controlling factor in the destinies of modern nations. There is the population; there is the wealth; there is the character. The Civil war showed what that character is; when an occasion again sets the test, it will employ itself to the supreme advantage of the world. It will be well for us, while preserving principle, to remember that friendship with the United States is one of the greatest assets in this time of our trouble and poignant endeavor."

# WHO'S WHO—and WHEREFORE

## BEN JOHNSON AND MANDY



Representative Johnson of Kentucky, tall of figure and solemn of countenance, furnished amusement for a lot of people in the Union station at Washington recently. He stood by the big gate where most of the passengers were coming from a train, and every few moments remarked, in a tone of authority, to nobody in particular: "Right this way, Mandy; I'll take care of you."

Now, there wasn't anybody named Mandy there, you understand, and everybody wondered why a congressman should be standing there saying over and over again: "Right this way, Mandy; I'll take care of you."

What sense was there to a man doing such a thing as that? After he had said it many times, Johnson went away, but in a couple of hours he was back again, repeating the same line, with the same calm dignity as before.

People were puzzled. Yet it was all simple enough. The Johnsons had sent to Kentucky for a cook, yclept Mandy. They knew her name, but that was all; they didn't even know for sure which train would bring her. But, according to reports, she was a wonderful cook who could play culinary selections on a gas stove just by ear, producing southern dishes of rare quality and fragrance.

And that was the reason why the dignified Congressman went to all the trains and cried out, every time he saw an able-bodied colored woman: "Right this way, Mandy; I'll take care of you!"

## RUCKER COURTED TROUBLE

When Representative Rucker of Missouri the other day asked the house to authorize the secretary of war to donate to the city of Trenton, in Grundy county, Missouri, four iron cannon there were many smiles in the chamber.

The humor of the situation later was explained.

Last session a member of the New York delegation introduced a similar bill. It was passed and in due time the cannon were delivered. Subsequently the house was asked to approve a claim bill of \$1,000 filed by a railroad company which had shipped the field pieces. When the freight charges were presented to the citizens of the town they balked and informed the representative that Uncle Sam could "keep his old cannon." The railroad is still demanding pay for totting the war relics.

Every so often Representative Igoe of St. Louis is asked to obtain cannon for the Fairground park, on North Grand avenue. Invariably Mr. Igoe has answered that he will get the cannon if anyone will guarantee to pay the freight. Thus far no one has come forward with the pledge.



## MILENA, MILKMAID QUEEN



The fall of Cetinje will grieve no one more than Milena, the beautiful queen of Montenegro, who came straight from being a milkmaid to rule her brave people.

It is in this small but beloved capital that she has lived since marriage, nursing her children and at the same time showering her mother love upon all her subjects, with whom she lives in closest touch.

A little more than fifty years ago she was little Milena Constantinevitch, peacefully and contentedly working upon her father's farm amidst the hills and valleys of the Black mountains. Her chief care then was looking after the cows, and early morning saw her emerge from the house, pail in hand, on the way to milk the cows. In those simple days she never dreamed that she would be called upon to wear a crown.

In the strict sense of the word her marriage was not a "love affair." That is, there was no falling in love at first sight, or anything so romantic. But in accordance with the custom of her country she was called from her farm work to be the bride of young Nicholas Petrovitch, the heir to the throne, because she was the loveliest child in the land. She was only thirteen when her nomination as the future bride took place, and a year later she was welcomed to Cetinje, and there wedded to the eighteen-year-old boy who had been selected by his uncle, the then Prince Danilo, to succeed him on the throne of Montenegro.

Their simple lives and the strong love that has grown between king and queen, are examples which the Montenegrins boast of with just pride.

## DR. FREDERICK G. COTTRELL

According to Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian institution, and vice president of the Research corporation of New York, the Research corporation, in the three years of its life, has earned something more than \$160,000. The rate of its earnings is on the increase.

Behind this bare statement is a remarkable story of self-sacrifice and devotion to the common weal. It is the story of Dr. Frederick Gardner Cottrell of California, whose fame among scientists is great, but who is almost unknown to the general public.

To put it briefly, Doctor Cottrell is the inventor and patentee of an electrical process to precipitate the solid matter in smoke. In many parts of the country it has revolutionized the smelter industry; it is moving to a point where it will make smoke-ridden cities free of coal dust and dirt.

But when the commercial success of the invention had been assured, Doctor Cottrell assigned his patent rights to the Smithsonian institution, with the sole proviso that the earnings should be devoted to the advancement of science. The Research corporation was organized in 1912 to handle and administer the fund.

