

Educational Department

Conducted by County Superintendent Crocker

Falls City will be represented in the district debate by Harry Gardner, in the county debate by Miles Crook.

Humboldt high school will be represented in the district debate by Edward Hodapp, in the county debate by Maud Tosland.

Dist. No. 74, Pearl Hanna, teacher—With the proceeds of our entertainment we have purchased a set of eight new maps and thirty-four new library books. The children are delighted with these new helps. We have a class of four boys studying agriculture. We use Bailey's text. Have three months of school yet.

Remember that our second annual inter-high-school debate takes place Friday evening, March 11, in the Jenne opera house. Each high school in the county will be represented. As stated in these columns before, this will be one of the most interesting discussions ever given in Richardson county. All are invited.

Dist. No. 29, Maud Mohler, teacher—Our school gave an entertainment and box social Wednesday evening. We had a very large crowd and regret that we could not accommodate all with seats. We realized \$13.75, which will be used to purchase maps and library books for the school. The highest price paid for a box was \$1.95.

Dist. No. 24, Daisy Arnold, teacher—School is progressing nicely. We closed the quarter with a special program. The pupils had the room beautifully decorated. The director, the county superintendent, several patrons and pupils from neighboring districts were present. We expect to have four 8th grade graduates this year. We hope to be able to give the public graduating exercises.

The time is drawing near when we shall finish another year's work. It is hoped that every teacher in Richardson county can leave her school feeling that she has done her duty to herself and pupils. This is the time of year when the teacher has her hardest trials, and when she is likely to become discouraged, but we should remember "the greatest and best guarantee of success is first to deserve success." People usually get about as much of good as they deserve, and while the results may not always be commensurate with the effort put forth, still what good results do come, come as a reward of merit. Hence, work, work. Work with the inspiration that behind you

are the hearts and hopes of the very best in the community and good citizenship everywhere, and that parental prayers go up for your success while you are struggling on.

Eighth grade examination and promotion is the subject that many of our teachers are now beginning to consider. Two schools have already given this eighth grade examination this spring. It is hoped that every teacher will give her eighth grade pupils a chance to take this eighth examination. Give them the chance to earn this common school diploma and thus encourage them to work for a higher education. Teachers please read the following written by the State Supt. of Illinois, Alfred Bayliss, it is full of good suggestions.

Now comes the teacher of the "Ivanhoe" public school—one room—and serves notice that we have organized an "Alumni" in which a deep interest is being taken. We feel that we will have the tendency to increase visitors in the school, among parents, pupils and others. We have our annual banquet December 27. (To be an active member after 1901, one must complete the 8th grade work. To be an honorary member, one must either be the county superintendent of Lake county or the state supt. of Ill.) Ten to one, the teacher of the "Ivanhoe" school, Lake county, Leo F. Jeanmeme by name, has in his makeup a trace of the quality that made Dominie Jamison, of Drumtochty, an ideal school master, that "unerring scent for parts in his laddies" and the "ability to detect a scholar in the egg." A one room school with as good a name as "Ivanhoe," with spirit and intelligence enough to organize and look after its graduates will surely follow a goodly number through the high school, and some into the college and among them will be those who love their first little Alma Mater longest and most of all. Twenty to one that school room is comfortable and well furnished, with tinted walls, and that there are a few good pictures there and some book cases—possibly a museum; that the grounds are the pride of the neighborhood and that they are thinking about a school garden next spring; or if it be not quite a model yet in all of these ways, that Alumni association will soon make it such. Fifty to one the "Ivanhoe" school has a board of directors who know a good thing when they see it, and will use due diligence to keep a good teacher

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when they get one—for the bane of the one room school is the incessant change of teachers. The board of directors who find and keep a good teacher two years where the other board kept an indifferent teacher but one year, are performing the most valuable of all services to the common schools. May their tribe increase.

Center of Population.
The center of population is in the following position: Latitude, 29 degrees, 9 hours, 36 minutes; longitude 85 degrees, 48 hours, 54 minutes. In ten years the center of population has moved westward 16 hours, 1 minute, about 14 miles; and south 2 hours, 20 minutes or about 3 miles. It now rests in southern Indiana at a point about 7 miles southwest of the city of Columbus. And by the way the geographical center of the United States is near Lawrence, Kansas.

Attendance Prizes.
To encourage attendance and create a friendly rivalry among schools in this respect, the county superintendent gives a prize of three library books each month to the school having the highest per cent of attendance; two for the second; one for the third. Mining schools for the past three months:

- December—1st, Dist. 15, Minnie M. Hudson, teacher, 98 per cent; 2nd, Dist. 105, E. Myra Shrauger, teacher, 94 per cent; 3rd, Dist. 5, Myrtle Robinson, teacher, 92 per cent.
- January—1st, Dist. 32, Grammar room, Mrs. Ora G. Funk, teacher, 97 per cent; 2nd, Dist. 15, Minnie M. Hudson, teacher, 97.5 per cent; 3rd, Dist. 37, Prof. Osher Schlaifer, teacher, 95.57 per cent.
- February—1st, Dist. 32, Grammar room, Mrs. Ora G. Funk, teacher, 92.8 per cent; 2nd, Dist.

32, Primary room, Clara Gagnon, teacher, 87 per cent; 3rd, Dist. 47, Elsie M. Peck, teacher, 84 per cent.

CITY HUNTERS.
Poor Aim Due to Being Unfamiliar with Objects at Long Range.

The usual number of disgusted sportsmen are complaining of their inability to hit what they shoot at in the woods. The cause of this inaccuracy is not generally understood, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

"I've been in the woods for years," said a returning hunter, "and it can't be buck fever with me, and it can't be the rifle, because I know that's all right; but I might just as well admit that I emptied my magazine at a fine buck and never touched a hair. I can't understand it."

The real cause of this kind of shooting, according to an old guide, lies in the city man's eyes. The average city resident, confined within houses the greater part of the year, becomes so accustomed to seeing at short distances only and to looking at familiar objects in the city that he cannot see clearly at a distance in the forest and amid unfamiliar surroundings.

Not only is his vision blurred because of this, but often when he does see he is unable to gauge accurately the distance that lies between him and the game. This is particularly true of shooting from the water at an animal standing clear against the sky or dim in forest or undergrowth.

Shooting at a mark does little good, but preliminary trips to the country for the purpose of distinguishing objects at long range would soon overcome the fault. As it is, the hunter with a short time at his disposal hardly gets accustomed to new surroundings before his time is up; and this often accounts for poor marksmanship. The bird hunter, or one who is accustomed to long vision, rarely has this trouble, even though he is an indifferent marksman.