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Department of Agricultural Extension

G. I. CHRISTIE, Superintendent

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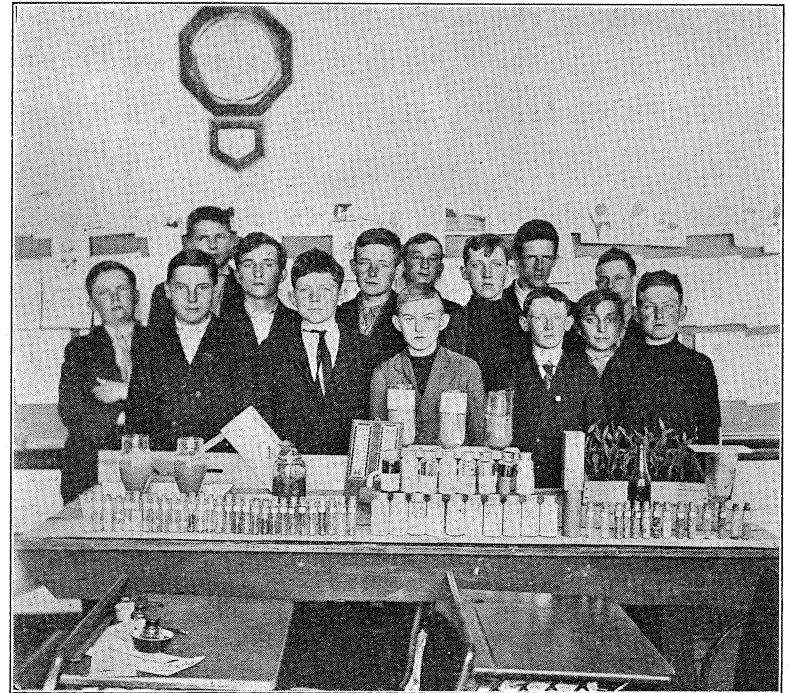


Fig. 1—Seventh and Eighth Grade Work—Cicero Schools

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORK IN THE
SCHOOLS OF HAMILTON COUNTY.

By. J. F. HAINES

County Superintendent of Schools.

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INTRODUCTION.

The subjects of Agriculture, Domestic Science and Manual Training are now being taught in many Indiana schools. This work has not been taken up as the result of state law, but it has been effectively introduced in many cases through young people's contests.

These contests have not only interested the boys and girls and the teachers in industrial subjects, but they have secured the support of the patrons for the school work in general.

The result of all this work is better schools, better pay for the teachers, more interested boys and girls, better farming, better homes, and a better country life.

Attention is called to the work being done in Hamilton County under the direction of J. F. Haines, County Superintendent of Schools. Counties that have not tried the young people's educational contest, will do well to start some work along this line at once.

For information relative to the organization of clubs, outlines for contests, rural school agriculture, domestic science and manual training, address Agricultural Extension Department, Purdue University, LaFayette, Indiana.

G. I. CHRISTIE.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORK IN THE SCHOOLS OF HAMILTON COUNTY.

J. F. HAINES,
County Superintendent of Schools.

Hamilton County, Indiana, is the home of the Boys' Corn Club. In a circular letter sent out by the county superintendent on Feb. 20, 1904, the teachers were asked to announce to the boys in the schools that "on Saturday, April 9, 1904, at the Examination Room, there will be held a meeting for boys who will agree to raise a patch of corn from seed furnished them." When the day arrived 93 boys joined the club, received 1200 grains of corn each, and started a movement that has spread to all parts of the country.

The first exhibit of corn was made on Dec. 2, 1904. Each township trustee donated some money for prizes, and the merchants gave articles that pleased the boys. The meeting was a success and the club increased in size. The club continued for a number of years, holding two meetings each year. These meetings were often attended by persons from other states who wished to learn what was being done for the boys. At one time a corn lunch was served to 350 people. The following is the menu:

Corn Relish.
Hot Corn Tamala, a La Homana.
Corned Beef.
"Snowflake" Hot Corn Bread.
"Goldmine" Butter.
Cream of Corn, En Surprise.
Moulded Corn Glace.
Pop Corn Bonbons, Ad Libitum.
Sweet Corn Caramels.
Inspiration of Corn.

Two of the most delightful occasions were excursions to Purdue University.

Some of the good results of this club are that it taught not only the boys but their fathers to become interested in better farming. It has improved the quality of corn in the county; it promoted a fellowship that will exist as long as the boys live.

In the last two years we have held agricultural fairs in some of the townships. The fairs are conducted by the pupils. Each school district makes an exhibit at some central point. They vie with each other in variety, collection, quality and arrangement. Great interest is aroused. Parents become as enthusiastic as their children. Almost all the people in the township visit these fairs, look over the exhibits, discuss the articles exhibited, ask the judges many questions and thus these fairs become real schools of instruction, besides arousing much enthusiasm and good feeling.

Work in the Schools.

In the common schools of Hamilton County much work is done in agriculture. Many of the teachers have done remarkable work in making collections of grains, seeds, insect enemies of plants, testing seeds, and performing experiments of various kinds. Where the teacher is interested the pupils are enthusiastic.

In each of the high schools of Hamilton County courses are offered in agriculture. In some of the schools only one year is offered, while in at least two of the schools a three years' course is offered. A text book is used, but the subject is made as practical as possible by experiments and a real application of the principles learned from the texts. We have made only a beginning, but it is a real joy to see the students working systematically, even scientifically some of the problems of the farm, and the pride and enthusiasm which they exhibit in this work often exceed that which they exhibit in the formal studies.

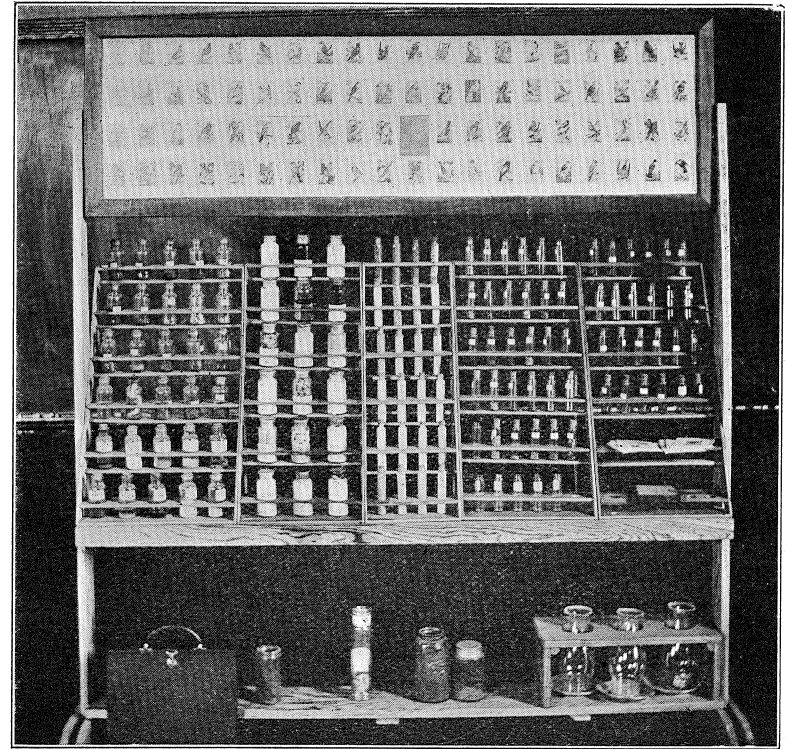


Fig. 2—Seventh and Eighth Grade Work—Arcadia Schools

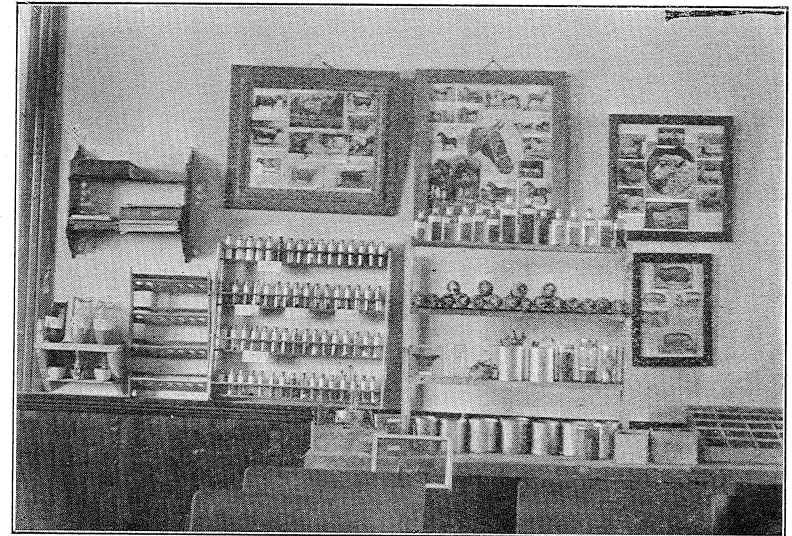


Fig. 3—Exhibit of collections and work done by pupils of District No. 15, Jackson Township

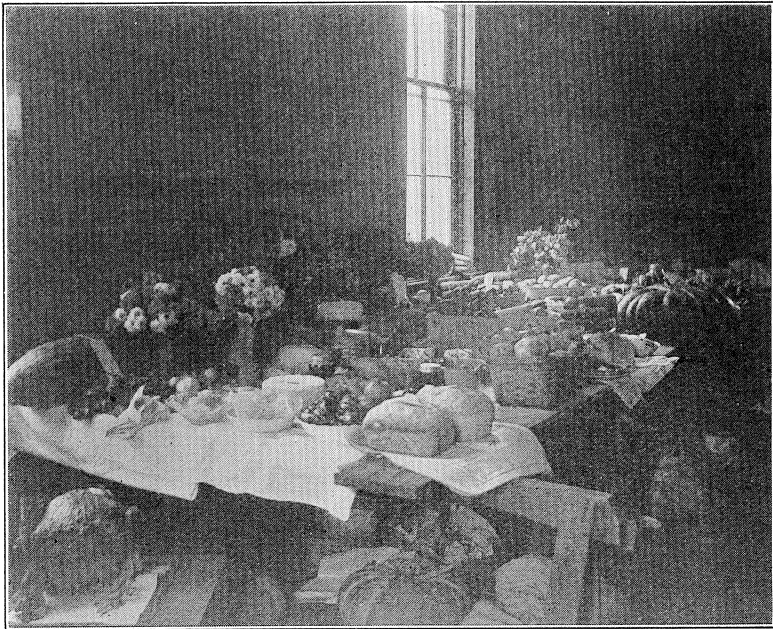


Fig. 4—Wayne Township School Fair



Fig. 5—Cooking Class—Washington Township

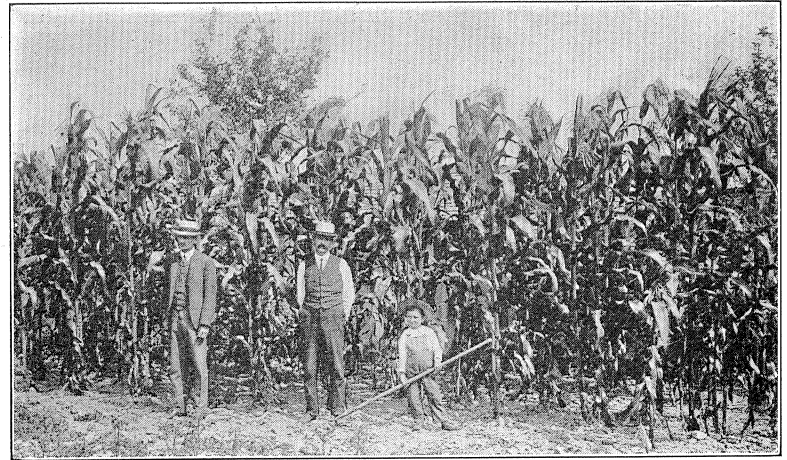


Fig. 6—Frank McConnell, youngest member. Won sweepstakes in 1906

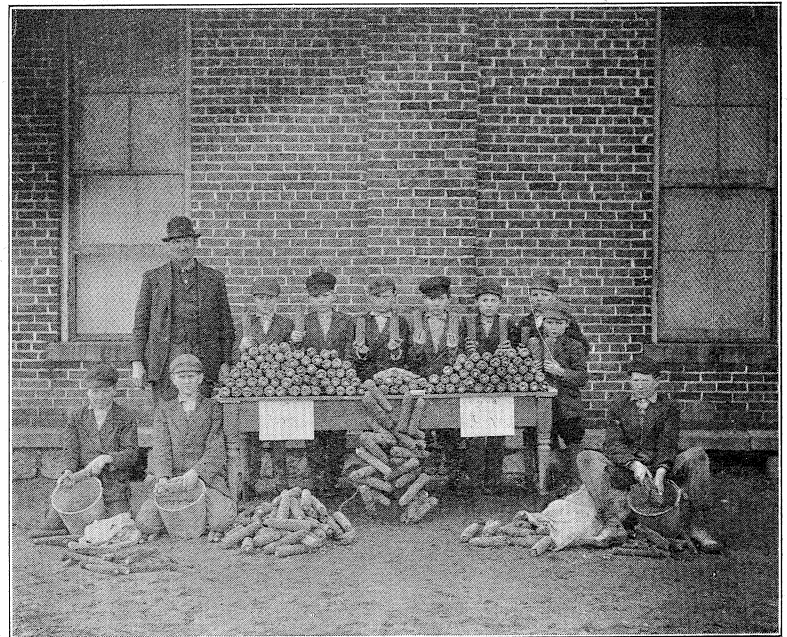


Fig. 7—Shelling the seed—Work in District No. 2, Wayne Township

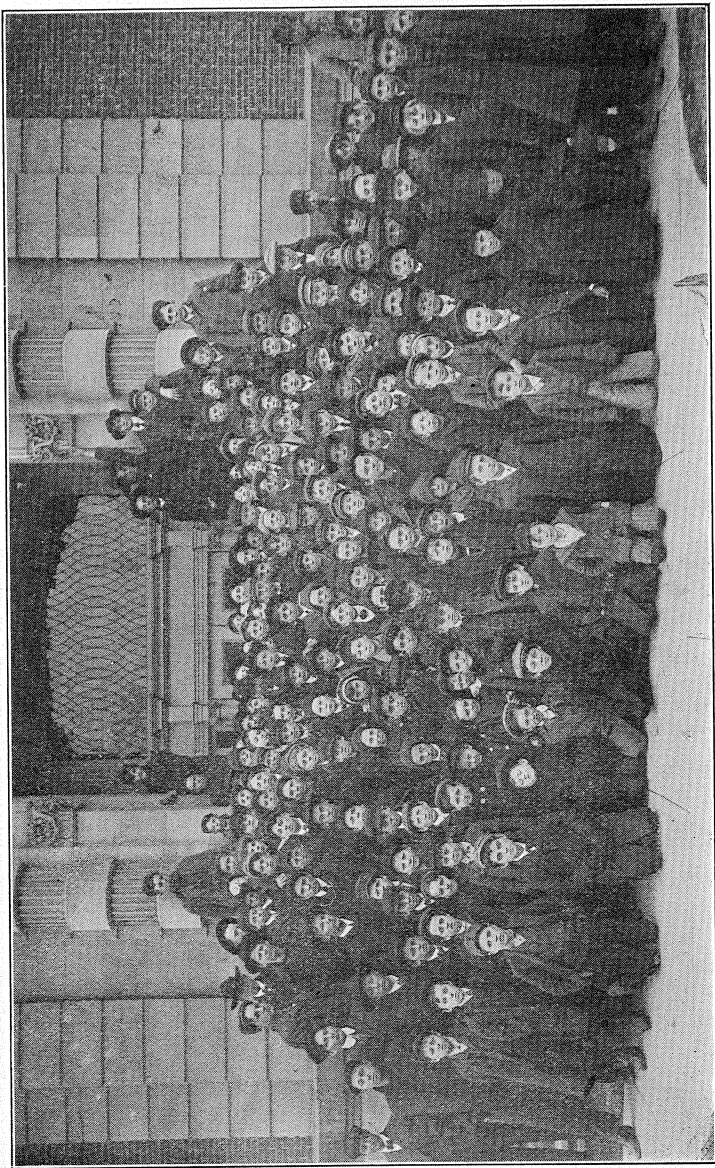


Fig. 8—The Hamilton County Corn Club