

THE NEWTON COUNTY

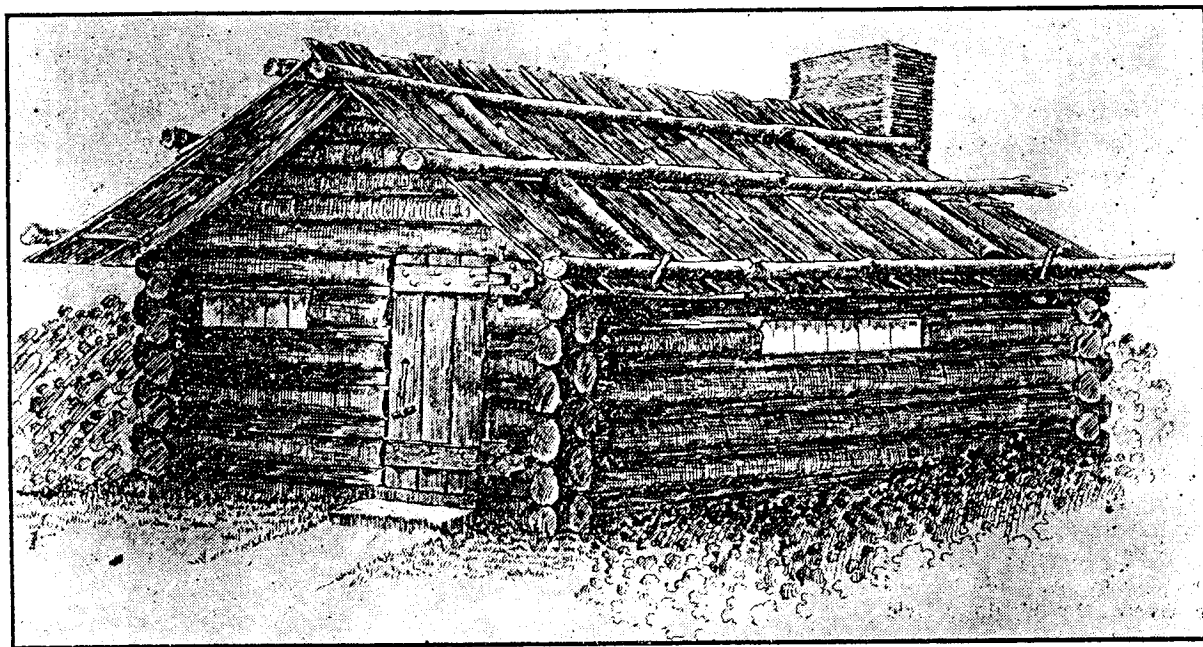
FARM BUREAU NEWS

The Official Organ of the Newton County Farm Bureau.

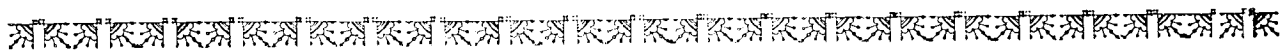
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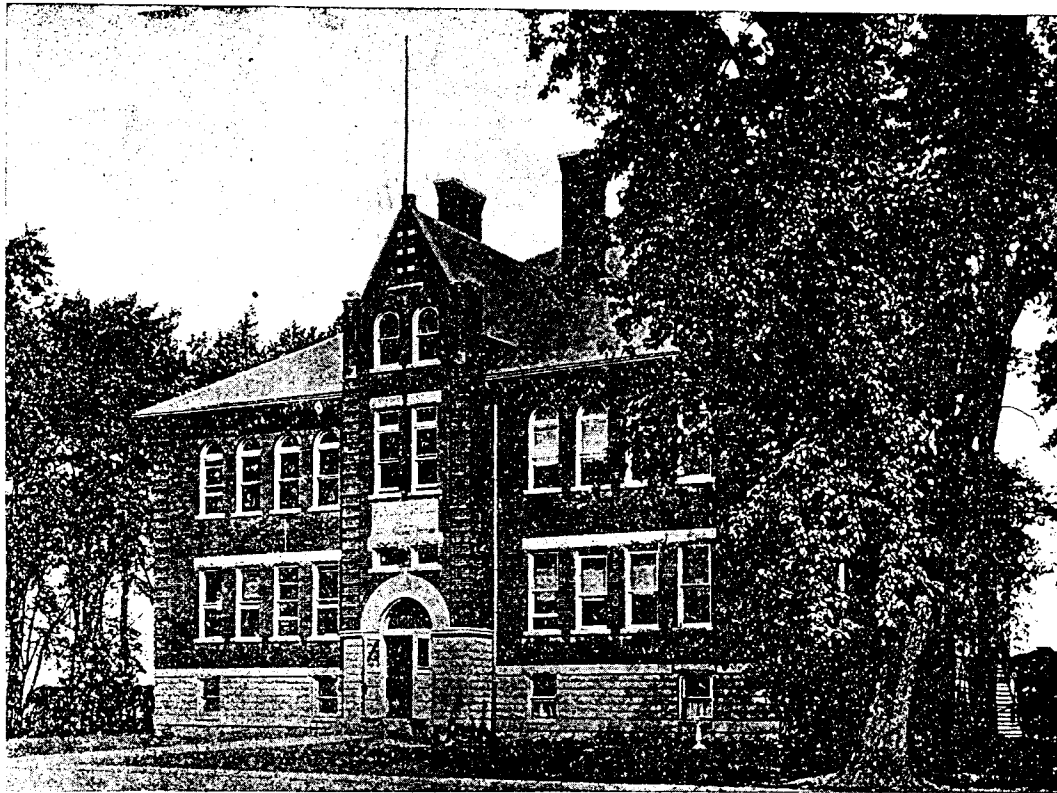
NUMBER 8



First Schoolhouse in Newton County



A Brief Historical Sketch of the Public Schools of Newton County, With Illustrations



KENTLAND GRADE BUILDING

Erected 1902

Cost \$20,000.00

The early settlers of Newton county had barely constructed their crude log cabins for dwelling places, than they began to plan some means whereby their children might be educated.

Private Schools

The first schools were private. All of the buildings used for this purpose, were made of logs. Some of them were erected by single individuals, while others were built by groups of individuals. Those buildings did not have a nail or any other articles of iron in their composition. The floors, benches, and doors were made of puncheons. Even the hinges for the doors were made of wood. For light, a log would be sawed out of the side of the building. When they did not have glass, greased paper was used in place of it. The roof was made by using clapboards about three feet long, split out of logs and held down in place by logs called "weight poles." A further description of this early type of Newton county schoolhouse architecture is unnecessary, as its

general features can be understood by an inspection of the picture used as a frontispiece in this issue of the News.

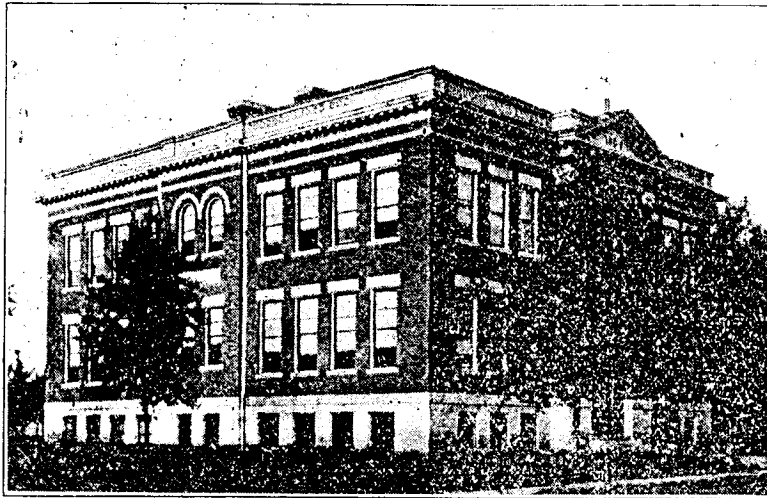
The teachers, generally, were farmers of the county, who consented to spend three or four months each year in teaching. As a rule they boarded among the patrons. The salaries that they received were so small, that no charge was made for board. Very little money was in circulation at this time, so the teachers, quite often, were paid in corn, wheat, or other products of the farm.

When spelling school or other meetings were held at night, it was expected that each family would bring a candle or a saucer of grease with a rag in it, to furnish light for the occasion. But rude and unsatisfactory as these conditions may seem to have been, many of the prominent men of the county, got their elements of an education in these very schools.

First Public Grade Schools

The first public schoolhouse in

Newton county was erected in Morocco, in 1854. It was a small, frame building and cost about \$300. This marked the beginning of the "Box Car" type of schoolhouse architecture. During the next thirty years, about seventy of these one room buildings, were erected within the county. During this time, the school term varied from four to six months. The teachers of the public school were paid very meager salaries but they received more than the private teachers, who preceded them. The qualifications demanded of these teachers were about as meager as their salaries. Township institutes were unheard of at this time. Each teacher conducted his school as he thought best. A good strong arm was a greater asset to the applicant for a school than a strong intellect. It can hardly be said that a fixed course of study was followed during this time because the selection of school subjects rested largely with the individual pupils. Many pupils did not choose



BROOK GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Erected 1902-03

Cost \$22,000.00

to study grammar because they could not see how a knowledge of this subject would help them acquire money.

High Schools

As men began to see the need of still higher education for their children, high schools were established, in the order named, in the towns of Kentland, Goodland, Brook, Morocco, and Mt. Ayr. A high school commission was granted to Kentland school in 1896; to Goodland, 1902; to Brook, 1906; to Morocco, 1906; and to Mount Ayr, in 1920. All of the high schools of the county are commissioned by the State. Each school is conducted for a period of nine months. Pictures of the schoolbuildings in the foregoing towns may be found elsewhere in this issue of the NEWS.

In Goodland, Brook, and Mount Ayr, the grades and high school are conducted in the same building in each place. Kentland and Morocco have separate buildings for the grades and high school. The school work in the latter two places is conducted on the six-six plan, that is, six years in the elementary grades and six years in the high school. The first six grades are taught in what is known as the "grade building." A teacher is employed for each grade. This plan makes possible a division of each, enabling pupils who need more help to be placed in the same group. Those who can do extra work are given the opportunity to do so.

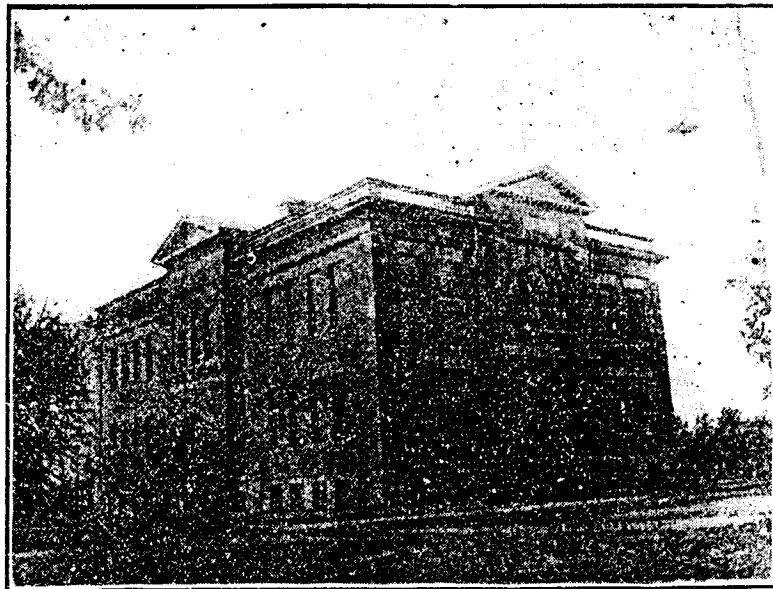
Some of the advantages to be gained by the six-six plan are as follows: A richer and more comprehensive program of studies than that of the traditional four-year high school or the

the elementary school; departmental teaching; promotion by subject; testing or exploration of individual aptitudes; recognition of the peculiar needs of retarded, as well as super-normal children; adequate facilities and equipment with respect to shops, kitchens, laboratories, and library as required for the proper teaching of all lines of work; directed or supervised study; and directed social and extra-curricular activities. This sort of re-organization does not mean that the higher mathematics, algebra and geometry, will be forced down into what was formerly the seventh and

eighth grades and arithmetic eliminated from those grades, but it does mean that the same teachers who teach algebra and geometry will also teach arithmetic. It is very apparent that the foundation work in each subject will in this manner be much stronger because the teachers of the higher mathematics will see that the elementary principles of algebra and geometry permeate the foundation blocks. As soon as Kentland was reorganized on the six-six plan, supervised study was introduced throughout the six years of work. To some extent supervised study has been introduced into some of the other high schools.

Supervised Study Plan

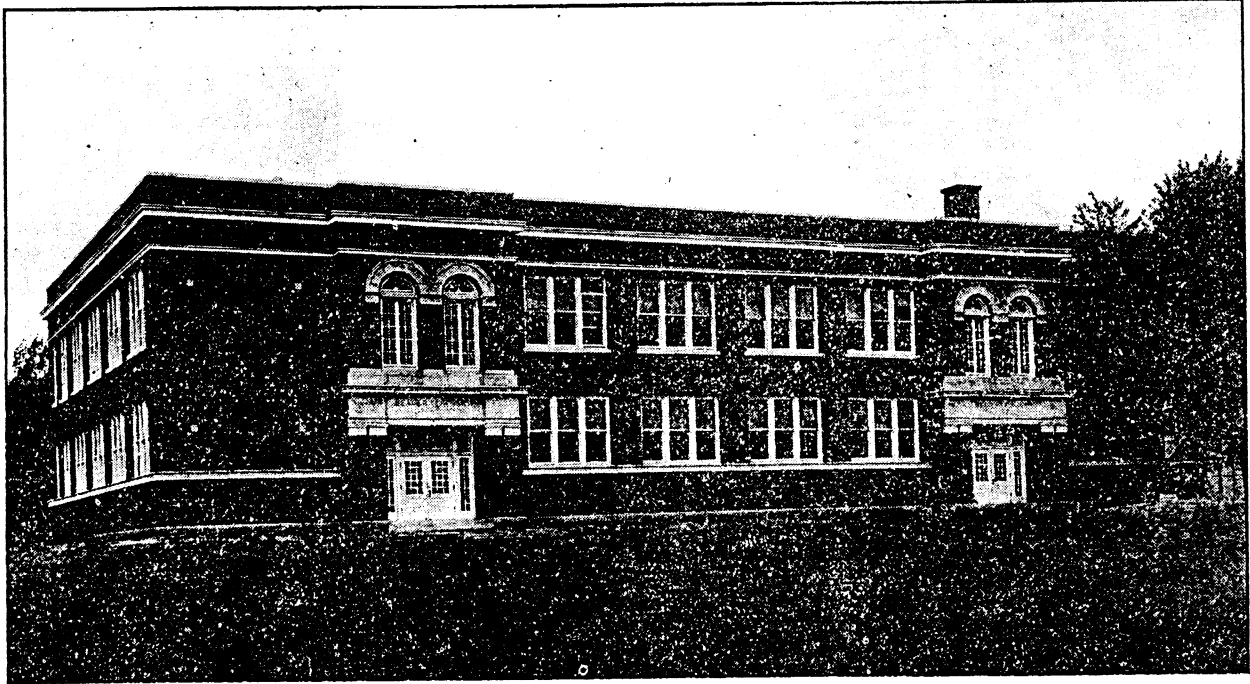
The progress of the supervised study plan is told by ex-Supt. Oscar Haney of the Kentland school, as follows: "Instead of fifteen minute recitations in the seventh and eighth grades and the old forty minute recitation in the upper grades that we formerly called the high school, we have now made all recitations in the six year high school, grades seven to twelve, sixty or eighty minutes in length, but to give thirty or forty minutes of each recitation period to supervised study for the pupil in each subject under the immediate direction of the teacher in charge of the particular subject. In this way we are teaching the child how to do his own thinking instead of trying to pour knowledge into him as we formerly



MOROCCO GRADE BUILDING

Erected 1899

Cost \$20,000.00



BEAVER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL (MOROCCO)

Erected 1921

Cost \$87,770.00

did in the old recitation. In the old system, the teacher was a kind of cross examiner whose business it was to examine the pupil each day to see how much he had gotten from a few hours of unsupervised study in an assembly room with all its distracting influences, or from a similar amount of time spent trying to study in the family living room while the latest scandal was being discussed by other members of the family. Now we put the pupil to work in the study period under the direction of a competent teacher where all the conditions are such as to stimulate thought and work and there the pupil learns to think. He is no longer a machine trying to memorize a conglomeration of facts. He is an individual who learns that the most important thing to be acquired in school is the ability to think straight, and supervised by a well trained teacher in each subject he is given plenty of exercise in hard thinking. The underlying principle in this new method in education is: that education is not a pouring process, but that one only learns by doing. Before 1922 the most difficult problem faced by the Kentland schools was to get the pupil to take an interest in his work and to study. In 1921 our percentage of failures was 14%. In 1922 our percentage was 10%. In 1923, the first year under the new organization, we found that we were getting

good work and interest for the first time, and our percentage of failures for last year was 5%, and our percentage of high grades was much greater than it had ever been before. This year (1923-24) for the first six weeks our percentage of failure is 4½%. The average percent of failure for the state is above 5%. It is a fair estimate to say that under the new organization our standard of efficiency has been increased more than 25%." Under the 6-6 plan of school organization eighth grade pupils enrolled in the township schools are not gradu-

ated as is the custom in the 8-4 organization. They are promoted by subjects. This plan practically means a 100 per cent. enrollment in high school of those students who have successfully completed the eighth grade.

One Room Schools

In the year 1900, there were 66 one-room school buildings, very similar to the picture of the one-room building shown in this issue of The News. They were distributed as follows: Grant township, 7; Washington, 13; Iroquois, 7; Jefferson, 11; Beaver, 7;



LAKE VILLAGE CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1914

Cost \$9,000.00

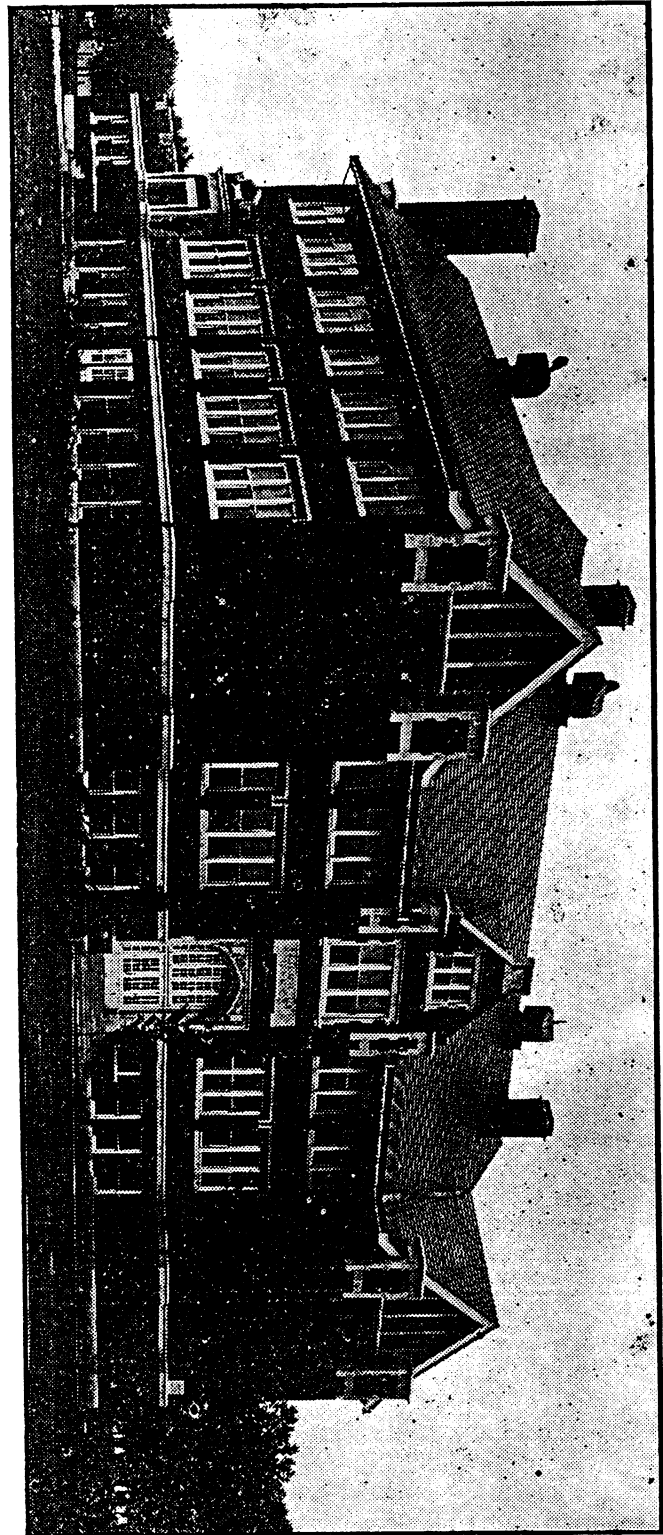
Jackson, 6; McClellan, 4; Colfax, 4; Lake, 4; and Lincoln, 4. When schools re-open this fall, September 1, 1924, only twelve of the one-room buildings will be used. Five of these are located in Grant township, four in Washington, and three in Jackson. The time has arrived when it is very difficult to get teachers of experience to take charge of a one-room rural school. Teachers realize that it is an impossibility to teach thirty or more recitations each day and do the work successfully, hence they shun the rural positions in the one-room districts. Only a few weeks ago, the patrons of one of the twelve schools mentioned above, petitioned the State Board of Health to close their school, so that the children might be better housed for the coming school year. Patrons have reached the point where they realize that poor heating, poor lighting, and exposure to the many "ills" of the "box car" type of schoolhouse, does not develop boys and girls physically, even if they do live in the open country. Furthermore, they have observed that pupils enrolled in the larger school plants are doing more and better work than is being done by their children. The following illustration, taken from last year's "Reports to Successors," prepared by teachers, will serve to show the greater progress that is made even in the first grade. Miss Gladys Hauser, teacher of the primary room in Roselawn, states that her first grade pupils read both the Child Classics Primer and First reader, the basic text books adopted by the State for this grade. In addition to reading those two books, the "beginners" read the Aldine Primer, the Aldine First Reader, Free and Treadwell's Book One, and the Wide-Awake First Reader. In contrast to this, some of the one-room schools did not even complete the two basic text books and supplementary readers were not used at all. This is not the fault of the teacher. Most first grade pupils in the one-room schools are permitted to recite three times each day and the recitation period is limited to ten minutes. These children are still further handicapped, in many cases, by being the only one in the class. The value of competition among pupils is very quickly recognized by a teacher of such school when she is transferred to the consolidated type of school.

One of the most abominable fea-

Erected 1921

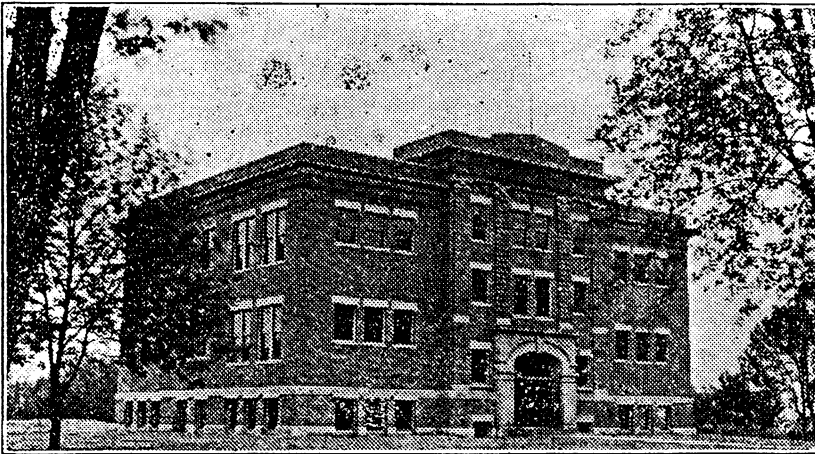
ALEXANDER J. KENT HIGH SCHOOL

Cost \$134,645.00



ures of the one-room type of school plant that is fast disappearing in Newton county, is th indecent, filthy outdoor closets for boys and girls. In some instances, these buildings during the school year, are too filthy to enter.

The policy of making no attempt to force the patrons of any school district in Newton county to abandon their one-room school will be continued as it has been in the past. Whenever a marjority of the patrons of any district become interested in



GOODLAND GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Erected 1908

Cost \$21,000.00

getting better school advantages, they should make the fact known to the proper Township Trustee.

Consolidation and Transportation

The term consolidated school means any school which has two or more teachers and which receives pupils from one or more abandoned districts. The first township in Newton county to completely consolidate its schools was Colfax. During the spring of 1919, the Township Trustee closed all of the four one-room schools and consolidated them into the one central building which was ready for occupancy when the school reopened in September, 1919. Since that time all of the schools in the county, with the exception of twelve one-room schools, have been consolidated. Thirty-four grade teachers have been eliminated by consolidation. The saving in teachers' salaries, institute and janitor fees, will provide for the transportation of the nine hundred pupils

now being transported to the larger schools. Fifty-four one-room buildings have been abandoned. Based

upon the present day prices, the maintenance of these fifty-four old buildings would have involved the expenditure of large sums of money if they had been remodeled to meet the legal, modern requirements.

Some of the advantages of consolidation are as follows:

1. Better grading and classification with better results for the same length of time.
2. A larger number of recitations for the pupil and more personal instruction from the teacher.
3. A longer time for each recitation.
4. Better work in the higher branches.
5. A broader and deeper school spirit.
6. A more comfortable and sanitary school building, properly lighted and heated.
7. More modern equipment, better



ROSELAWN CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1917

Cost \$21,000.00



ADE CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1914

Cost \$14,500.00

reference books, supplementary readers, and library books.

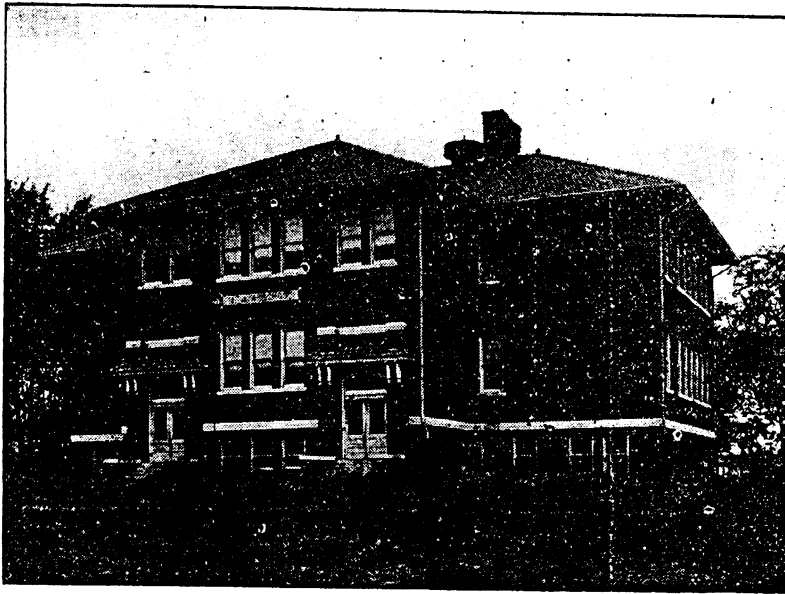
8. The morals of the children are carefully guarded while at school and on their way to and from school.

9. The inspiration which comes from association with their fellows in larger classes, hence causing them to have greater interest in their work.

10. A more extended circle of acquaintances. This larger acquaintance will improve their manners, strengthen their individuality and broaden their experience.

11. Less waste of time and more concentrated effective work.

12. The health of the children is much improved when conveyed in



MOUNT AYR GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Erected 1917-18

Cost \$27,905.00

auto busses and landed dry and warm, they do not suffer so often from colds, and other winter diseases.

13. Greater contentment and happiness because the children appreciate a good school.

14. Adequate opportunities for athletic sports, literary societies, community gatherings, farmers' corn shows and instructional meetings, club work, and church and Sunday school.

15. The habits of punctuality and promptness, formed, especially by those who ride to school.

16. It makes possible for every child, a country school equal in every sense to the best city schools, yet within reach of the farm homes.

17. It affords an opportunity for work in special branches, such as drawing, music, domestic science, manual training, etc.

18. Petty jealousies and "cross wires" in neighborhoods interfere less with the best interests of the school.

19. Larger classes inspire the strong students to excell and the others to imitate their example.

20. Good teachers may be more easily obtained and retained than in the one-room school.

21. It eliminates truancy because children must be on hand to ride home in the evening and parents know whether or not they enter the bus in the morning.

22. The children are protected from storms; quarreling and fighting and abuse of the smaller children by the larger are prevented.

23. The school busses can be used to transport children to entertainments, holiday picnics, and "school day" at the County Fair.

24. It enhances the value of real estate, but the greatest gain is in the enrichment of the lives of the young.

25. The central school has more dignity, more character, more force than the rural school, and evokes more pride, interest, and support on the part of the people. At every point of comparison the consolidated school is superior to the one-room school.

26. The objections to consolidation are almost invariably fanciful and selfish. Trivial excuses are offered to outweigh the most precious inheritance that a child may receive.

More than thirty motor busses are used in transporting the children of Newton county to the consolidated schools. Contrary to the many predictions of patrons not a single child has been injured during the past few years in auto bus transportation. Township Trustees and auto bus drivers feel the responsibility that rests upon them in the matter of safe transportation and every effort possible is put forth to make and keep it so.

Training of Teachers

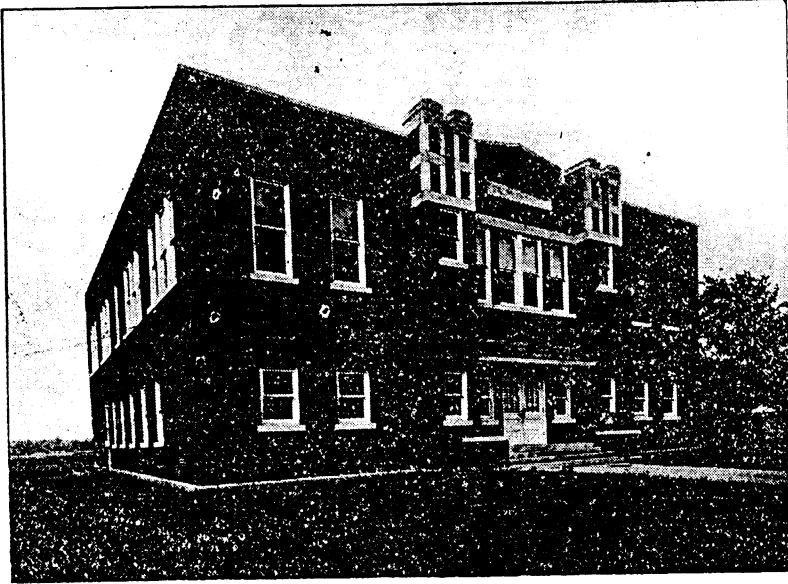
The teachers' license law passed by the General Assembly of 1923, bases the licenses of teachers on actual school preparation. It raises the minimum standard for teachers in elementary grades to graduation from a commissioned high school or the equivalent and one year (36 weeks) of special training in Normal School or College. For teachers in the high school, graduation from a commission school or the equivalent and three years (108 weeks) of special training is required. The new law makes possible a closer relation than ever before between the preparation required and the teaching work to be done. Hence, prospective teachers now need to prepare for specific kinds of teaching; rural school, primary, intermediate grades, grammar grades, special subjects, high school subjects,



ENOS CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1921

Cost \$30,864.00



FOESMAN CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1921

Cost \$47,588.00

etc. This will give a consistency and continuity to their training heretofore unusual. The idea that a teacher should receive special training for the particular kind of work she desires to do in the schools, merely follows well established regulations in business. The law is commendable and should survive repealing acts, at least, until another advanced step is taken.

Playground Equipment

During the past few years the subject of the playgrounds has received much attention from people who desire to do things for the betterment of their communities. Contrary to a popular belief in rural districts, wholesome play is as necessary in the country as it is in the towns. Too many people entertain the erroneous idea that plenty of work with a change, is all that a boy or girl needs for exercise. This is all well and good, if the young person enjoys to do the work. If he does not, it is not a recreation for him.

The great playground movement is not a local agitation, it is sweeping from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In our county, most of the consolidated schools have been provided with some splendid equipment. The ocean wave, slides, teeter boards, horizontal ladders, and swings are the most popular. Tennis, basket and base ball, and croquet are also provided in some of the schools. Without playground equipment, children resort to wrestling, fighting, grabbing hats and wraps and

numerous other trouble making sports for both the school and the home.

David Starr Jordan was right when he said: "There is nothing in all the world so important as little children, nothing so interesting. If ever you wish to go in for philanthropy, if ever you wish to be of any real use in the world, do something for children. We can dress the sore, bandage the wounded, imprison the criminal, heal the sick and bury the dead, but there is always the chance that we can save the child."

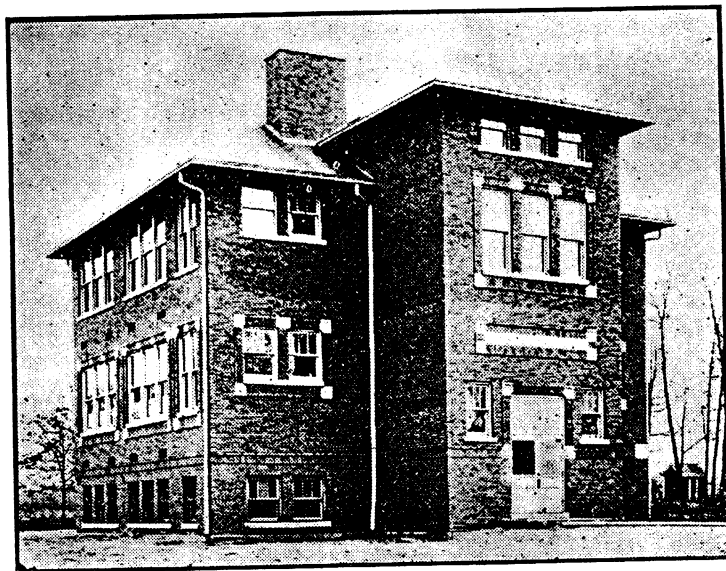
THE WEALTH OF NEWTON COUNTY.

The resources of our county are not confined to its fertile soil, its crops or its fine cattle and horses. The mental and moral power of its rising generation outweighs them all and if educated and directed rightly, it will do more to advance the county in every kind of prosperity. But, if not educated, it is not simply so much power and wealth lost but it becomes a negative quantity. Among the lowly and poor is to be found some of the best directive ability of the county. It cannot afford to lose this ability simply because private purses cannot provide the means of development. The richest products of any county are its best men and women. Newton county now maintains five commissioned high schools, thus giving to most of the boys and girls a chance to obtain a high school education. It is the duty of every adult in the county to see that young people are properly urged to take advantage of the opportunity offered to do the higher grade school work.

THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

William O. Schanlaub, Superintendent of Schools, chairman, Kentland, Indiana.

William H. Kessler, Trustee Beaver township, Morocco, Indiana.



THAYER CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1913

Cost \$12,000.00

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AUCTIONEERS

Date early as we sell practically every day.
Farm sales, pure bred stock and real estate.

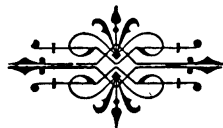
Remington, Indiana

PEOPLES DRUG STORE

Morocco, Indiana



School Book Depository for
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Complete stock of school books and
school supplies at all times.



Get the Peoples Quality

Better Babies Contest

Under Management of
Newton County Farm Bureau

Examination will be conducted by experienced
Doctors and State Nurses. No babies under 12
months allowed to enter. There will be 5 classes
as follows:

- Boy 12 to 24 mos. - \$5 \$3 \$2
- Boy 24 to 36 mos. - \$5 \$3 \$2
- Girl 12 to 24 mos. - \$5 \$3 \$2
- Girl 24 to 36 mos. - \$5 \$3 \$2
- Twins 12 to 36 mos. - \$5
- Most perfect child, 12 to 36 mos. \$10

Free rest room and play ground for child-
ren under six years of age.

For further information watch your local newspaper

E. E. HESS DRUG CO.

BROOK, INDIANA



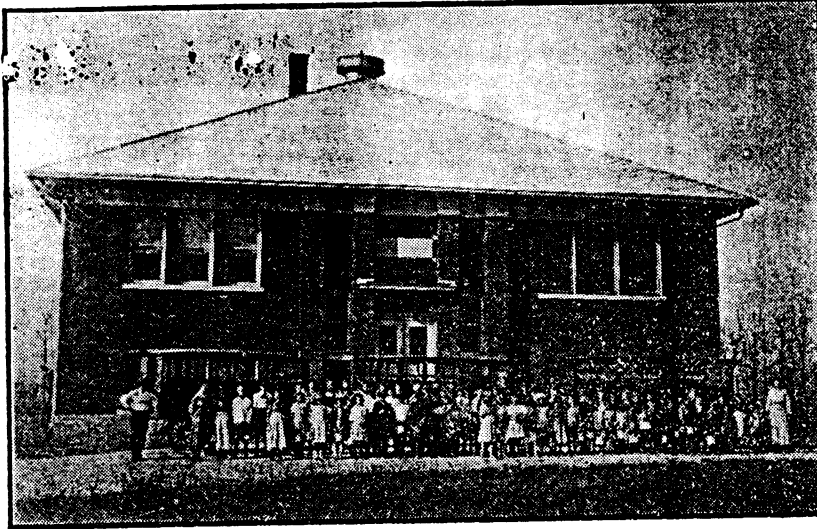
Headquarters for school books and school supplies
of all kinds.

Bossung & Merchant

Is the place to buy your Dry
Goods, Clothing, Hats, Caps,
Shoes and Groceries at the
lowest prices.

Brook

Indiana



COLFAX CENTER CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1919

Cost \$17,633.00

Daniel E. Odle, Trustee Colfax township, Fair Oaks, Indiana.

Lewis W. Lemasters, Trustee Grant township, Goodland, Indiana.

Charles Russell, Trustee of Iroquois township, Foresman, Indiana.

Bela F. Roberts, Trustee Jackson township, Mt. Ayr, Indiana.

Thomas H. Dixon, Trustee Jefferson township, Kentland, Indiana.

George F. Brown, Trustee Lake township, Lake Village, Indiana.

Arthur Bruchette, Trustee Lincoln township, Rose Lawn, Indiana.

George Lomax, Trustee McClellan township, Morocco, Indiana.

Ross B. Hagen, Trustee Washington township, Morocco, Indiana.

Dr. T. E. Collier, President of School Board, Brook.

Dr. G. H. Van Kirk, President of School Board, Kentland.

A. G. Mitten, President of School Board, Goodland.

COUNTY SCHOOL EXAMINERS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

In the early days, the duties now performed by the county superintendent of schools, were performed by county examiners. Of course the duties were not as numerous and varied as they are today. The first county examiner was Nathaniel West. He was elected June 8, 1861 and served three years. The other examiners, together with date of election or appointment and term served, are as follows: William C. Rose, June 10, 1864, eleven months; James M. Nel-

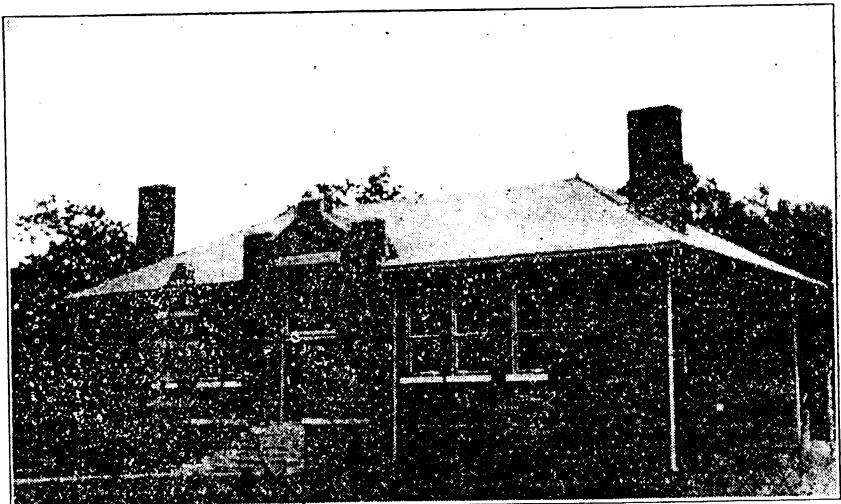
son, June 4, 1865, three years; O. P. Hervey, June 4, 1868, two years and six months; D. M. Graves, December 8, 1870, six months; and John B. Smith, June 12, 1871, two years. The first county superintendent was John H. Merchant. He was elected June, 1873, and served two years. The names of the other county superintendents, dates of appointment and terms, are: Benj. F. Neisz, June 1875, one year and nine months; D. S. Pence, March, 1877, one year and three months; R. F. Kerr, June, 1878, eleven months; Pierce Archibald, May, 1879, one month; William H. Hershman, June, 1879, ten years; William W. Pfrimmer, June, 1889, ten years;

William L. Kellenberger, June, 1899, eight years and six months; William O. Schaulaub, December 7, 1907, (present incumbent).

CONSOLIDATED

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The construction cost of the consolidated school buildings mentioned in this issue of The News, includes plumbing, heating, and lighting. Great changes have taken place in the rural life of the entire country during the past twenty-five years. Few things are done today as they were fifty years ago. The methods of cultivating planting, harvesting and marketing that are now being used, were not even dreamed of by our grandfathers. The degree to which the home, the school, and the church have kept up with the progress that has been made in rural life, must be determined by each individual. In Newton county there are many modern homes on the farms, with all conveniences, running water, bath, telephone, furnace heat, etc. Rural churches have been consolidated. Mt. Zion church in Washington township is a splendid building and a splendid church and Sunday school organization. It is the purpose of this special number of The News, to set forth by words and pictures, the conditions of the schools of Newton county as they are today, show in a limited way the progress that they have made and what they have accomplished in the way of keeping pace with the progress of civilization.



CONRAD CONSOLIDATED BUILDING

Erected 1920-21

Cost \$11,861.00

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Everything for everybody. Shoes, Dry Goods, Groceries, Drugs. School Day Outfitter for the kiddies. Phone 64.

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Surplus \$8,000

GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS

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Morocco, Indiana

Phone 32

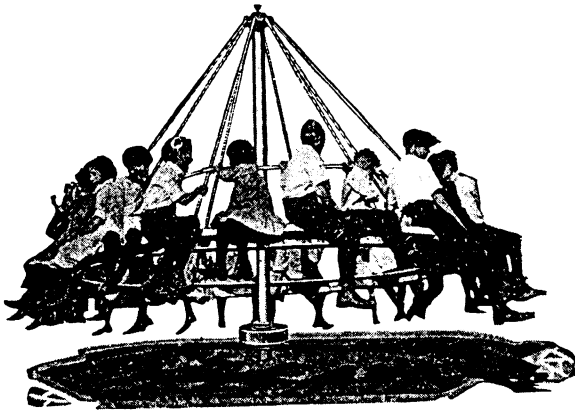
Gay-Tuggle Company

— Incorporated —

General Merchandise

Morocco, Indiana

In the Co-operation and Competition of Children's Play, they Learn
to be Good Comrades and Friends.



OCEAN WAVE

Installed at Goodland, Foresman and Mt. Ayr.



TEETER TOTTERS

Installed at Kentland, Goodland, Brook, Enos, and Lake Village. Several small home-made outfits are installed at one-room schools.

COSTS OF SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION IN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

In the Spring of 1919, the children of Washington township were taught by twelve teachers in eleven one-room buildings and in the central building at Ade. During the summer of the foregoing year, Trustee Ross B. Hagen started a program of consolidation of schools, with the result that in five years, five teachers have been eliminated. At present four teachers are employed in as many one-room buildings and three at Ade. No more money has been invested in buildings during this time and the children from all of the abandoned schools are transported to school in auto busses. The cost of this service during the past year was \$5,083.00, which sum was distributed among farmers in the township. The saving in teachers'

salaries, institute and janitor fees, will pay the entire cost of the transportation and leave a good balance. It must also be borne in mind that the upkeep on the old one-room buildings was large. The saving mentioned above does not include the additional saving of upkeep on seven school buildings and fuel for same.

COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

The school buildings in Enos, Lake Village, Thayer, Roselawn, Colfax Center, Mt. Ayr, and Foresman are used both for school and community purposes. Each place is a community center, where all of the community activities are held. Corn shows, Farm Bureau meetings, church, Sunday school, lyceum courses, moving picture shows, basket ball games, political gatherings, and various other meetings are held in these buildings. The

economy of making one building serve for all community purposes is very apparent.

The State Board of School Book Commissioners has made changes in the copy books, arithmetics, and the readers for the first six grades. Teachers in Newton county will be instructed to make changes only when the children are beginning the use of a new book.

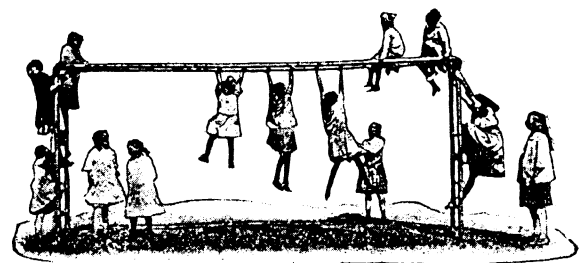
Under the new attendance law, it is so hard to get a "working certificate" for children that the practice has been reduced to a point, where the matter is almost forgotten. Children between the ages of seven and sixteen years, if well, are required to be in school each day of the term. Penalties for even a day's absence for work are quite severe, hence the law should be obeyed. Money spent in fines could be more profitably used in hiring extra help.

God Prescribes Simple Antidotes for Physical Ailments---Exercise
Temperance, Fresh Air and Needful Rest.



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