

THE NORTHWEST MONTHLY



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NO. 9.

Successful Crops and Soils Day

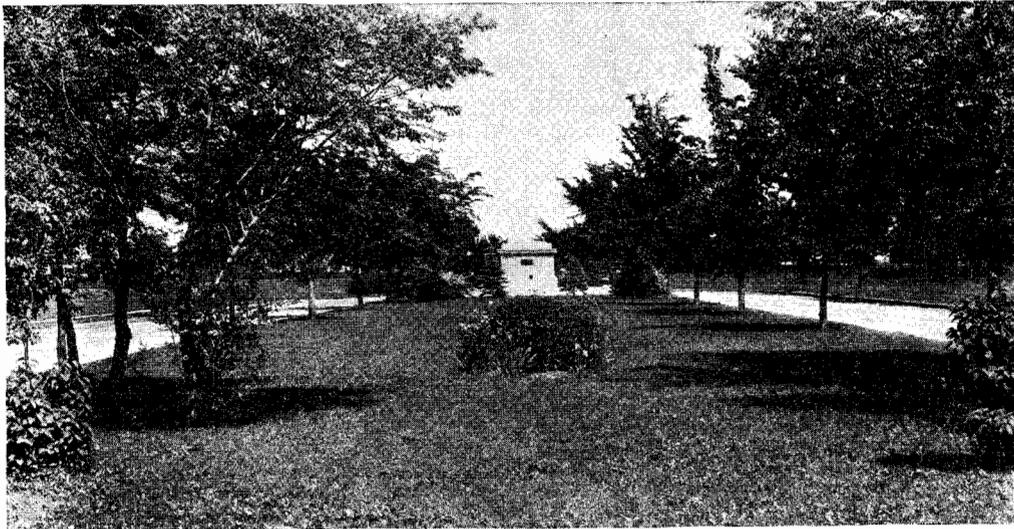
A continuous rain the night before and during most of the day failed to dampen the spirits of the large crowd that assembled for the annual Crops and Soils day at the Northwest Experiment Station on July 16. That farmers are keenly interested in crops and soils problems was shown by an attendance of approximately 200 men and women. After the instructive speaking program the men tramped through the mud and rain to visit the experiment plots and fields, under the supervision of Professors R. S. Dunham, T. M. McCall and E. R. Clark.

A strong program had been arranged with Dr. F. J. Alway and Director F. W. Peck from the University Farm, St. Paul, and Professor E. G. Booth, Extension Agronomist, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Fargo, No. Dakota, as the principal speakers. Northwest School men on the program were Superintendent A. A. Dowell, E. R. Clark, T. M. McCall, and R. S. Dunham. Miss Retta Bede and A. M. Pilkey had charge of the meetings for the ladies.

The address by Dr. Alway was a practical discussion of soils and fertilizers for the Red River Valley. Director Peck spoke on "Controlled Production," by which he said he did not mean any arbitrary legislation or common agreement for control of acreage and livestock. Instead, he said, there are some things within the control of every individual farmer which will affect the supply. Briefly, these were (1) Rotation of crops and distribution of acreage under the control of the individual farmer; (2) the quality of seed used, also the treatment

and cleaning of the seed before planting; (3) the control of weeds; (4) manner of marketing the crop; that is, as a cash crop or through the various kinds of livestock; (5) price trends, history of prices, probable production in other sections and countries, coupled with statistics of carry-over or storage, and probable consumption.

Professor Booth's address dealt with the production and distribution of pure seed. Eventually, said Mr. Booth, there will be as much attention to pure seed as there is now to pure-bred livestock. Right now, continued Mr. Booth, it is difficult to convince the average farmer of the importance of good seed and as a result, seed is planted that contains



CAMPUS ENTRANCE

mixed varieties, weed seed and seed diseases. The speaker explained the different kinds of seed that come from foundation stock, registered supply and commercial seed stocks. Among the practical suggestions given crops men by Mr. Booth were his explanations of future possibilities of pure seed production and marketing. He closed by reviewing the pioneer work that has been carried on in Canada, Montana, and North Dakota.

In the inspection of plots the visitors were shown the Marquillo, Reward, Axminster and other varieties of wheat, Anthony, Victory, Minota, Gopher and Liberty Oats, Winona, Chippewa and North Dakota 114 flax, and Svansota, Trebi, Glabron and Vel-

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School Improvements

Students upon their return to school next fall will be greeted by a number of changes and improvements in the various buildings on the campus. The exterior woodwork of the dining hall has been repainted. The new ivory trim against the reddish tan brick gives the building a very pleasing appearance in its setting of trees and shrubs. The senior boys will be welcomed by a spick and span new interior in their building. All cracked walls and plaster have been repaired. The rooms in the entire building are being repainted in a light Tarcoertine grey color. The wood work is to be revarnished and all

floors are to be cleaned, bleached, and oiled.

The Hill Building has, perhaps, received the greatest amount of time and attention. The boys' cloak room on the first floor has been remodeled into a study room for both boys and girls. It is equipped with tables and comfortable chairs. This

new feature will fill a long felt want for those students who desire to remain in the building during vacant periods. The entire interior of the building has been replastered. The stairway to the second floor has been relaid and a crew of painters have re-decorated the building from basement to attic.

Comfortable new Spanish leather furniture has been purchased for the parlors of Stephens and Senior Halls. Each building is to receive two large davenports, two large rockers, two large chairs, four club chairs and four arm chairs. This new furniture, with the pianos, phonograph, fire place and magazine shelves that are already in the building will make these parlors

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF
AGRICULTURE

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OFFICE
Northwest Experiment Station,
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A monthly publication in the interest of
agricultural education and home training for
Northwestern Minnesota.

FALL ENROLLMENT LARGE

The total number of room reservations on August 20 was 250, which is the largest enrollment of any previous year. Indications are that there will be about 30 members of the advanced class, 60 seniors, 80 juniors, and about 125 freshmen. Rooms are still available in the dormitories and students who are planning to come will find it to their advantage to reserve rooms as early as possible. Rooms are reserved by making a deposit of \$2.00, which applies on the school expenses at the opening of the term. To assist in the registration it is also suggested that each student mail his list of subjects to the Registrar early. Catalogs and other information may be secured by writing the Northwest School, Crookston.

SCHOOL STATISTICS

ARE INTERESTING

The report of Registrar A. H. Larson contains a number of interesting statistics concerning the attendance during the year 1927-28. It was found that Northwest School students are as a whole somewhat older than students in other secondary schools, indicating that many have found it necessary to remain out of school for some time after finishing the eighth grade. The average of all students last year was 17.2 years. The Freshmen averaged 16.7 years, the Juniors 16.9, the Seniors 18, and the advanced, 18.9.

Majority Live on Farms

The greater part of the student body came from the farms of Northwestern Minnesota, the towns and villages contributing but 37 students.

Twenty-four different occupations were listed under the heading of "occupation of fathers." Out of a total of 298, 252 listed their fathers as farmers, eight were teachers, 6 storekeepers, 4 worked on the railroad, 2 mail-carriers, 2 grain buyers, 2 pastors, while the remainder included practically every occupation common to Northwestern Minnesota.

Most Students Born in Minnesota

A higher percentage of the students were born in Minnesota than was the case in former year. For 1927-28, 239 were born in this state, although many were born in counties outside the Red River Valley. Seventeen were born in North Dakota, 13 in Iowa, 6 in South Dakota, 4 in Wisconsin, 3 each

in Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, and Canada, with others coming from Indiana, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Oregon and Norway.

Students came from 19 Minnesota counties and three outside states. The complete enrollment by counties was as follows:

Becker 12, Beltrami 4, Big Stone 1, Clay 18, Clearwater 20, Chippewa 1, Kittson 16, Lake of the Woods 4, Marshall 15, McLeod 1, Norman 32, Ottertail 15, Pennington 20, Polk 97, Red Lake 10, Roseau 22, St. Louis 2, Traverse 1, and Wadena 2. Montana and North Dakota sent two students each, while one came from Wisconsin.

GIRLS ASSIST WITH STATE FAIR CAMP

Sixteen girls from the Northwest School Home Economics department have been invited to assist in the dining hall of the Farm Boys' Camp at the Minnesota State Fair, August 31, to September 8. These girls will have an exceptional opportunity to inspect the many educational exhibits from the schools, factories, and farms of this and adjoining states. They will be under the direct supervision of Miss Retta Bede, of the Northwest School staff. Members of the party include: Iris and Esther Gibbons, Crookston; Hilma Ahlm, Argyle; Evelyn Bain, Baudette; Williamine Cenfild, Clinton; Estelle Filipi, Angus; Mabel Fletcher, Bagley; Florence Hanson, Mentor; Sanna Hanson, Wanke; Mary Johnson, East Grand Forks; Agnes Johnson, Fisher; Olga Johnson, Plummer; Alma Krogstad, Fertile; Alice Naplin, Wylie; Eva Parduhn, Cedar Bend, and Julia Miller, Goodridge.

SUCCESSFUL CLUB CAMP

The first 4-H club camp held jointly by Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties at Rocky Point, on Lake of the Woods, was attended by 225 boys and girls and their leaders, during July 5-7. County Agents J. W. Taylor and Ronald McCamus, who were in charge of the camp, had every detail carefully planned. There were cottages for the girls, tents for the boys, and good things to eat for everybody.

According to H. A. Pflughoeft, district club leader, part of each day was devoted to project discussion. The afternoons and evenings were reserved for games, bathing, stunts, singing of club songs and club yells. Owing to wet grounds, kittenball had to be dispensed with, but other organized games were played instead.

Unusually heavy rain on the forenoon of the first day made several miles of the road to camp impassable. Consequently the boys and girls were taken to Warroad, where boats took them to Rocky Point, a distance of twelve miles.

Forty club members from Lake of the Woods county and their leaders, as well as some of the instructors

from the Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, attempted to reach the camp by automobile, but were forced to return to Warroad, where they remained for the night. They proceeded by boat the next morning.

Instructors at the camp were Miss Retta Bede and Mr. O. M. Kiser, of the Northwest School, Crookston; H. A. Pflughoeft, district club agent; Parker Anderson of the University Extension Division, and Louise Bringgold of the Minnesota Department of Health. Others who assisted at the camp were E. E. Billberg, Roseau county superintendent of Schools, and K. A. Righ, superintendent of Roseau city schools.

Roseau business men furnished transportation for the boys and girls to and from Warroad, and also donated sixty dollars to pay for boats. Another treat was a gift of 100 pounds of select pike furnished by Booth's Fishery, of Warroad.

All agreed that the first camp was a success, and voted to have another next year.

BANANAS ARE RIPE

The three banana plants in the Northwest School and Station greenhouse have excited more than local interest during the past several months.

Large numbers of people have visited the greenhouse daily since the banana plants began blooming on December 28th. The first cluster of fruit was harvested July 8th, and the ripening process was completed in the banana rooms of the Finch-Winslow-Carlisle Company of Crookston. The storage ripening process required five days. The first cluster of fruit weighed fifty-four pounds, the second cluster weighed sixty-two pounds and the third bunch about sixty pounds. The bananas average a trifle smaller in size than the imported fruit, but possess flavor and equality equal to the best.

The banana plants are dwarf specimens of *Musa Sapientum*. The plants grow from six to nine feet high, with leaves from four to six feet long. Plants of another dwarf species obtained from Florida will be set in the conservatory for the next crop. Professor T. M. McCall, Horticulturist, secured the original plants from the Iowa State College greenhouse in the fall of 1925.

A. H. LARSON GRANTED

YEAR'S LEAVE

A. H. Larson and family left early in August for the University of Kentucky, at Lexington, where Mr. Larson will spend the year working for his Master's Degree. He plans to specialize in courses outlined for school registrars. Students and faculty of the Northwest School join in wishing the Larsons a pleasant and profitable year in the sunny south, and will look forward to their return next summer.

POLK COUNTY GRADUATES LARGE CLASS

A total of 301 graduates from the rural schools of Polk county received diplomas from Superintendent I. S. Hov at the Northwest School, on July 14. The commencement address was given by Congressman C. G. Selvig, while the address of welcome was given by Superintendent A. A. Dowell. The program included several musical numbers, together with the annual county declamatory contest. Elinor Borchert, Winger, winner of the contest, will represent Polk county at the State Fair this fall. Edward Perry, Angus, was awarded second place. Parents and graduates enjoyed a picnic dinner on the Northwest School grounds and remained through the afternoon for a recreation program in charge of Professor A. H. Larson.

CROPS AND SOILS DAY

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vet barley. Sulphur dusting for rust control, rotations, weed control and other experiments proved interesting to the visitors. Mimeographed material covering the trip about the plots may be secured by writing Professor R. S. Dunham, Agronomist, Northwest School.

CROPS AND SOILS

ASSN. ELECT OFFICERS

The Red River Valley Crops and Soils Association again elected Ole A. Flaot, Fisher, as president of the organization for the ensuing year. Mr. Flaot is a graduate of the Northwest School and has won for himself a reputation as a grower of pedigree grain and potatoes. Other officers elected were Arthur E. Norum, Hallock, vice president; R. S. Dunham, Northwest School, Secretary, and S. M. Sivertson, Crookston, treasurer. The directors who will represent the various counties are as follows:

Kittson—Ted Carlson, Hallock; Marshall—Elmer Rosendahl, Warren; Roseau—Ole Bakken, Wannaska; Polk—Gust Tillberg, Fosston; Clearwater—Erick Widseth, Gonvick; Red Lake—George H. Orr, Red Lake Falls; Mahnomen—A. J. Robinson, Mahnomen; Clay—Theo. Skrei, Glynndon; Wilkin—L. S. Stallings, Breckenridge; Pennington—H. C. Woolson, Thief River Falls; Ottertail—Martin Mortenson, Underwood; Becker—C. C. Williams, Detroit Lakes.

TWINS BORN ON CAMPUS

Twin daughters were born at the Northwest School on July 10. They are very shy, in fact, almost bashful, but with the attention they are receiving from numerous callers, it is hoped they will become very popular debutantes. They have been placed on a special diet, which, together with plenty of fresh air and sunshine has caused them to make very satisfactory growth during the past month. The

mother answers to the name of Sally and the father is Don, whose reputation as guardian of his family is so well established that the little fawns need fear no danger.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

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a home indeed.

The old wooden floor in the tractor room of the Owen Building has been replaced by a new one of concrete. This will greatly improve the appearance and facilities for work of this building.

A. M. Foker, superintendent of building and grounds, is making every effort to have all buildings in proper shape for the large number of students who have already enrolled for the coming school year.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

ON THE WEATHER

"I moved into the Valley four years ago," said a farmer the other day, "and each year I have been told the weather was unusual. I wonder when we will have a normal season," he questioned.

What is a usual season and what is normal weather? If it is represented by the average conditions over a considerable period, we seldom experience normalcy. According to R. S. Dunham, Agronomist, the average precipitation (rain and snow) at the Northwest Experiment Station for the past ten years was 19.07 inches. In no one of those ten years, however, did we have exactly 19 inches. In two years the precipitation came within an inch of the average. Four years were clearly abnormal; 1920 with 9.8 inches less than normal, 1922 with 7.3 inches more than normal, 1925 with 4.7 inches more, and 1926 with 5.1 inches less. The other four years of this decade varied from 3.5 inches above to 2.9 inches less than the average.

The average number of days between the last spring frost and the first fall frost is 126. In thirty years we have not had one average season of exactly 126 days. During the last ten years, the frost-free period has varied from 164 days in 1922 to 91 days in 1924. If we can call a season ten days shorter or ten days longer than the average an abnormal season, we have had nine such years during the last ten.

What is the normal wheat planting date? The first wheat planted at this station during the last seven years has been as follows: April 25, May 1, and April 4, a range of 30 days with the average April 15. The difference in weather conditions has caused Marquis to ripen in 95 days in one season and 138 in another. It has largely been responsible for a variation of 7 inches in length of straw during the past four years. Temperature, number of clear and rainy days, and direction of wind vary greatly from year to year and seldom ap-

proach the average. It is no wonder that the farmer was told that the weather was unusual.

An Unusual Spring

Just how far 1928 has been unusual (based on a 10-year average) may be gathered from the following:

January was about 6 degrees warmer than the average.

February was about 7 degrees warmer than the average.

March was about 1 degree warmer than the average.

April was about 4 degrees colder than the average.

May was about 3 1-2 degrees warmer than the average.

June was about 3 1-2 degrees colder than the average.

The total rainfall of April, May and June this year was just about average, but nearly three inches less than for the same period during 1927.

May, 1928, with 1.18 inches of rain was the driest May since 1917, when only one-tenth inch fell. Only twice since 1912 have we experienced a wetter June than in 1928: June, 1915, had 8.46 inches and June 1925, 6.82 inches. The rainfall during June, 1928, totaled 6.58 inches.

PERSONALS

Miss Edla Thurn and Miss Mabel Thorson, who were formerly employed in the Northwest school offices, visited the school on July 12. Miss Thurn is now with the Wilcox Lumber Company, Minneapolis, while Miss Thorson is with the Vacuum Oil Company, Fargo.

Several of last year's advanced class have made plans to continue in school this fall. Ruth Soltis will take the Teachers Training work at East Grand Forks, while Sophie Brieland will do the same at Thief River Falls. Esther Engbretson and Lillian Bakken plan to enroll in the Teachers Training department in Crookston. Hannah Degerness and Gladys Gunderson will go to Moorhead State Teachers College. Russell Younggren plans to enter the Junior College at Virginia, and Carl Widseth and Melvin Hole will attend the College of Agriculture, St. Paul.

James Cowan, '26, will enter Marquette University this fall, where he will study engineering.

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Kiser and family left on July 26, for a vacation trip to Kansas.

Plans have already been begun for the Home Coming events on October 27. The feature of the day will be the football game with the Morris Aggies.

Recent reports state that Olaf Krogsgang, of Saum, who attended the Northwest School in 1915-16, died in an auto accident in the West about the middle of July.

Lieutenant Martinus Stenseth, '16, visited on the campus July 18. Lt. Stenseth was spending a short vacation with his parents at Twin Valley and was expecting to report for duty at the flying field at Selfridge Field, Michigan, by August 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nabben, '19, arrived on the campus July 1. Henry will be herdsman at the Northwest School.

Mrs. O. M. Kiser, of the Northwest School of Agriculture, who submitted to a major operation at the St. Vincent Hospital, a few days ago, is reported progressing satisfactorily.

Professor and Mrs. R. S. Dunham and children motored to Mountain, Wisconsin, where they will visit with Mrs. Dunham's relatives.

Elmer Hedstrand, '27, is a patient in the Modern Woodmen of America Sanatorium at Woodmen, Colorado. He expects to be able to return home within the next few months.

Carl Widseth, '27, sends greetings to students and faculty of the Northwest School. Carl would appreciate receiving the '28 advanced class round letter at his address, Box 215, Lewis-town, Pennsylvania.

Miss Anne Simley was granted the degree of Master of Arts at the close of the summer session at the University of Wisconsin.

H. C. Rutt writes that he is enjoying his work in rural electrification in Northern Illinois. At present he is equipping various kinds of farm machines to run with electric motors, on a model farm near Moundelein, Illinois. In commenting on the Northwest School, Mr. Rutt adds: "I liked the work and atmosphere there so much that I doubt that I will ever get entirely over it. There is something there that I haven't found anywhere else."

According to the Gully Advance, Walter Welte, '22, was married to Miss Julia Birkeland of Oklee, at Bagley, on July 8.

Announcements have been received of the marriage of Clara Elizabeth Thomforde, to Andrew J. Anderson, on June 23, at Oklee, Minn.

Martin Landby, '13, is receiving treatments at the Fort Snelling Veterans' Hospital, Minneapolis.

Agnes Theoline Anderson, of Greenbush, who attended school in 1924-26, was married July 22, 1928, to Olaf George Hanson, of Robbin. After their honeymoon, they will go to South Dakota, where Mr. Hanson will teach school.

Stella Carlson, '25, who has just completed a term at the MacPhail School of Music, is spending the summer at Hallock.

Mrs. Milton W. Carlson (Myrtle Marmorine, '22), states that they are returning to Clearbrook.

Harvey Johnson, of Rollag, is having a busy summer with the 75 4-H Club members enrolled in his leadership project.

Miss Alva Sherwood, who taught the business training work in 1924-26, has been spending the summer at Columbia University, where she has been specializing in music.

Theresa Aakre, '24, is working in Fargo and plans to teach again this fall.

Alfred Hvidsten, '13, Stephen, is chairman of the township board.

Elmer Miller, '25, has been chosen vice president of the Plant Science club at the University of Minnesota. This is a newly organized club for those interested in agronomy and farm crops.

Miss Gertrude Osterloh, '15, Angus, was married on June 14, to Mr. Gunnar Olson, of Crookston.

Cora Walters, '24, has just resumed her training at the Bethesda Hospital in Crookston, after a three weeks' vacation.

Alice Parnow, '26, who has been in training at the Bethesda Hospital in Crookston, has been transferred to the Miller Hospital in St. Paul.

Marjory Ann, weighing six pounds, arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Forder, '21, Middle River, on June 7.

Roscoe Dartt died at San Francisco, May 25. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Coast Guards at San Francisco.

Lydia Busch, of Backoo, North Dakota, plans to attend a bible School at Chicago.

Earl Anderson, '23, is farming at Allon Hills, Sask., Canada.

Edwin Sathre, '21, of Halstad, was married on May 30 to Clara Moe, of Valley City.

John Landby, '21, died June 29, at Oakland Park Sanatorium, at Thief River Falls.

Harold P. Morris, '18, was married to Miss May Sisson Dey of Urbana, Illinois, on May 31. They will make their home in St. Paul.

Martin C. Anderson, '21, St. Vincent, Minnesota, will take charge of the high school at Jansen, Nebraska, the coming year. He writes that he is planning to finish his college work in agricultural education at Ames, Iowa, and perhaps take graduate work in an eastern college.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Luchau announce the arrival of Donald Wyant, at Gary, Minnesota, on August 13.

Chester Johnson, Fergus Falls, has been making a round of Minnesota fairs as special representative of the DeLaval Separator company. He has been in the employ of this firm since January 1.

F. E. Culp, prominent farmer and director of the Lake of the Woods Farm Bureau, made a visit to the school campus recently. His son, Dilman, will enter the school at the beginning of the fall term.

Professor E. H. Jones, state supervisor of education in North Dakota, visited the school August 20, and looked over the shops and laboratories.

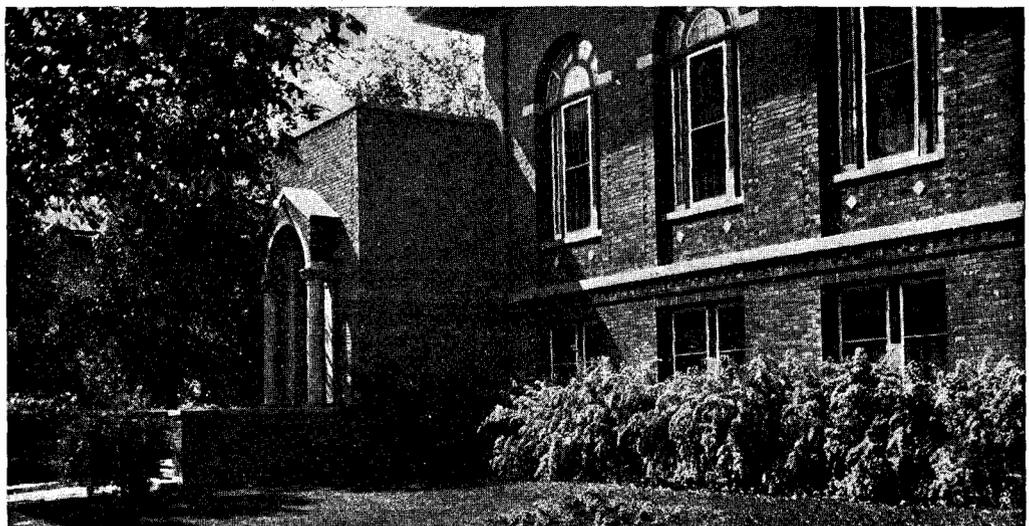
FOR SALE

Holstein Bull Calves for sale, three to six months of age. These young bulls are not only well bred, but show good breed type. Their dams carry records up to 970 pounds of butter. Prices reasonable.

Shropshire Sheep. For sale, fifteen purebred Shropshire ewes two to six years of age, also two yearling Shropshire rams.

Shorthorn Bull. One good Shorthorn bull ready for service. Age fifteen months.

For prices write Northwest School of Agriculture, Crookston, Minn.



SCHOOL DINING HALL