before the teacher. The material needs of the school reported in duplicate to the clerk, can now receive the speedier action of the board. The scope of work covered in each subject and class and the monthly standings of pupils go into the records of the county superintendent. This system, while it requires additional time for checking up on the reports, and the making of the same once a month, has proved to be fruitful of many good results. Time used in systematizing school work is not in vain.

VISITATION.

The common schools are inspected by the county superintendent and his assistant. While the time spent at any one school is not great, yet the occasional "dropping in" by an official visitor has a salutary effect. Four hundred and twenty-five school visits were made in the county last year. Close supervision like that in a city school system is not possible under the present plan. More and closer supervision is the crying need of the country school today.

TEACHERS’ CLUBS.

In the fall of 1915 a plan of teachers’ study clubs was launched in the county, with the result that twenty clubs of small groups of teachers have met at various times. Some of the clubs, at their present rate of holding meetings, will register about ten meetings by the close of the school year. The number of members in these clubs varies, ranging from three or four to ten. Reading circle books with a plan for giving credit, and other topics of special interest to teachers, are discussed. These clubs are proving popular and helpful.

WARM LUNCHES IN SCHOOLS.

The practice of catering to the physical welfare of the children by serving warm dishes to them during the noon hour is not confined to the high schools —alone, where the practice is quite general, but is to be found in many of the country schools that are fitted up with special equipment for this purpose. The teacher usually appoints from among the larger pupils those who are to look after the serving of the lunch each day. A general pantry supply is often kept at the school to supplement the eatables brought from the homes for cooking. Several plans for furnishing the materials are in vogue. The parents generally favor this innovation. The rural schools associated with McIntosh and East Grand Forks, or most of them, have good lunch outfits.

BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ CLUBS.

A practical form of club work, closely affiliated with the school, includes such projects as corn-growing, bread-making, and pig-raising. Through the special efforts of the high school agriculturists and the county agent, instructions from the State Agricultural School, the office of the county superintendent, and a number of enterprising private citizens the club work in Polk County has become well established. No less than ten boys’ corn clubs existed in 1915. A number of bread clubs sent representatives to a county bread-making contest held at Crookston in July, and they competed for the right to represent Polk County at the State Fair. The pig clubs at East Grand Forks and Fosston figured prominently in the State pig-contest last year.

CROOKSTON SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

This branch of the State University, located at Crookston, while naturally established to serve the State at large, is, by virtue of location, an educational asset of special benefit to us. Many of the graduates of this school are carrying on extensive and up-to-date farming in this county. Summer training courses for teachers, with special inducements for the pursuit of industrial subjects, are maintained.

In connection with the regular school year, a special course for rural teachers is offered. One of the aims of this course is to fit young persons for work in consolidated schools.