

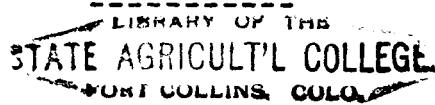
T H E S I S

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A N E D U C A T I O N A L A N D S O C I O L O G I C A L

S U R V E Y O F T H E

L A P O R T E , C O L O R A D O C O M M U N I T Y .



Submitted by

James Millar

for the degree of Master of Arts

Colorado Agricultural College

Fort Collins, Colorado

May 7, 1927.

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THIS THESIS HAS BEEN READ  
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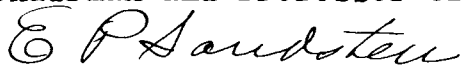
  
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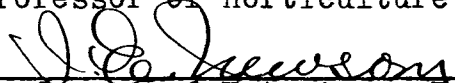
Head of the Department of Education  
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Fort Collins, Colorado  
May 7, 1927

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THIS THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

  
Chairman and Professor of Zoology

  
Professor of Horticulture

  
Professor of Veterinary Pathology

Committee on Advanced Degrees  
Colorado Agricultural College  
Fort Collins, Colorado.

## INTRODUCTION

### SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

One of the first problems in a survey is to define the territory to be included in the investigation. In the present study we decided upon the bounds of the present consolidated school district. The survey embraces about one hundred and seventy families. There are about fifty square miles in the territory covered and it includes various types of land such as foothills of the Rockies, dry farming land besides some of the very best irrigated land.

In this territory is found quite a diversity of rural economic activities, such as fruit growing, dairying, small grain farming, raising sugar beets, stock and poultry. Also the recent important enterprise of cement manufacture.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." In these words of an ancient writer are expressed concisely the purpose of the survey, namely, to give a clear, and as far as possible an accurate picture of conditions as they really exist. Frequently communities, as well as individuals, live and labor in the dark as to their situation. Under such conditions, if success attends their efforts it is due more to good fortune than to intelligent effort.

"The philosophy of the survey," says Paul U. Kellog, expert on social surveys, "is to set forth before the community all the facts that bear on the problem and to rely upon

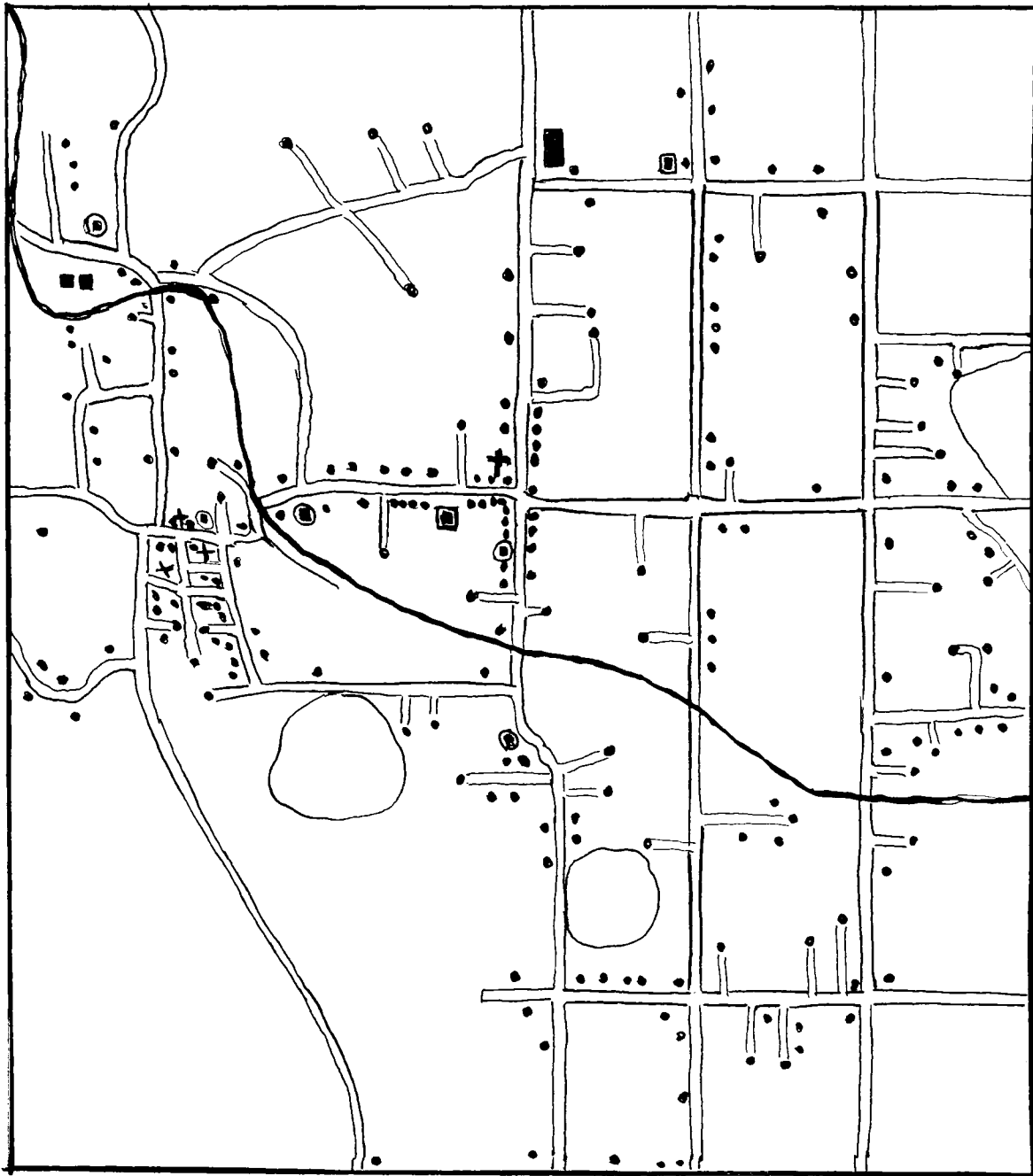


Figure 1. -- Map of La Porte Community.

□ School

⊙ Store

■ Waterworks

† Church

• Home

■ Cement plant

the common understanding, the common forethought, the common purpose of all the people as the first great resource to be drawn upon in working that problem out. Thus conceived, the survey becomes a distinctive and powerful implement of democracy."

Under the leading purpose of the survey there are worthy aims, namely, to encourage those who have lived and labored in the community for many years in order to improve conditions. In the historical sketch there is much to encourage all who have had part in the achievements of the past quarter of a century or more in community betterment.

We aim also to inspire further effort in the direction of still better conditions. This can best be done by the actual inventory of the present conditions. From this vision may be constructed a long time program of constructive and co-operative activities.

In the purpose of the survey there was not the remotest desire or aim for muck-raking and if any of the facts discovered seem to indicate this it is not due to the purpose of the work but to the conditions as they exist. However there is nothing in the facts ascertained that is unduly discreditable to the community and there is much that is unusually commendable.

#### HISTORICAL SKETCH

Probably very few small communities in the State of Colorado have a more interesting history than the subject of

our investigations. The name alone is suggestive, La Porte which is Spanish means "The Gateway." La Porte is the gateway to vast regions of grazing and timber land to beautiful mountain scenery and cool streams with myriads of the coveted mountain trout. One has only to witness the constant procession of automobiles on Sundays or on holidays in order to be convinced that La Porte is the gateway to many attractions.

La Porte is one of the localities where the first white settlements were made in Colorado. A great deal of historical interest centers around the place.

Antoine Janis, a squaw man, who came here in 1844 is supposed to be the first white settler in Colorado north of the Arkansas River. He remained until 1878. Samuel Bingham, the father of Mrs. Eliza Gardener, who is still a resident in the community rented a house from the squaw man when he and his family came from Missouri.

"Away back in the early days, long before the gold hunters made their grand rush upon Colorado a band of intrepid Canadian French mountaineers, hunters and trappers made La Porte headquarters for their fur catching and trading operations. Their neighbors were the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians with whom they intermarried and with whom they maintained the utmost friendly and business relations.

From 1858 to 1860 the community increased in numbers and in the latter year a town company was organized, known as the Colona Town Company, whose object was to build a city on the

banks of the Cache la Poudre River at the entrance to the mountain region.

Colona was washed away by flood and La Porte was founded. In June 1864 Col. W. O. Collins, who had headquarters at Laramie Wyoming, ordered troops here stationed farther down the river and with the aid of Joe Mason and the soldiers a settlement was established at Camp Collins, now Fort Collins, in August, 1864, at a point on the river near the present Linden street bridge.

The town grew rapidly, between fifty and sixty log dwellings being erected during that year, and it was the most important point for business north of Denver. The first cabin built in the new town was erected by the late John B. Provost. In 1862 La Porte was made headquarters of the mountain division of the Overland Stage company, and for a time it flourished like a green bay tree.

In the early days the town was a bustling business and supply recruiting point for emigrants. There were four saloons, a brewery, a butcher shop, a shoe shop, two blacksmith shops, a store and a hotel. The first store was opened and conducted by Jerry Kershaw who afterwards sold it to Chamberlin and Glenn. The late Preston Taft was clerk in this store. The sales during the busy season often amounted to \$1000.00 a day, everything sold for a big price. Sugar, 50¢ a pound: oysters and sardines, from \$1.00 - \$1.50 per can: flour, \$100.00 a sack: corn, 18 and 20¢ a pound by the sack: butter from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a pound, and every thing else in proportion.





The old stage road-house at La Porte  
during the flood of 1923.



A modern home occupied by a  
progressive Polish family.

The late William S. Taylor kept a stage station at La Porte for several years and had the pleasure of entertaining at his table several distinguished men, including General Grant, Vice President Schuyler Colfax and Samuel Bowles, editor of the Springfield, Massachusetts, "Republican." Horace Greeley stopped in La Porte over night in June 1859."

It was through La Porte the miners of '49 travelled to reach the California gold fields, the Mormons to Utah, and other emigrants to the West. In early days there was an Indian village consisting of one hundred and fifty lodges located here. It was for a number of years the county seat and also aspirant for the State Capitol, this honor it lost by only one or two votes. The first county court house located here cost only \$150.00. Judge Matthews was the first justice of the peace.

The first hotel was on the south side of the river and the first hotel keeper married an Indian girl. A Mr. Swift and "Father" Burns were the first preachers. Their work extends back to the time when the Indian village still existed. The first physician was Dr. T. M. Smith who came to Camp Collins in 1864, which was then located at La Porte.

#### PROCEDURE OF STUDY.

After the territory to be surveyed was determined upon a very detailed questionnaire was constructed. In this Professor B. F. Coen of the department of Sociology rendered considerable assistance. With the help of Mr. Coen and a number of his advanced students every family was visited and personally

interviewed to obtain the information desired. The work was done nearly two years ago. Through my acquaintance on the field it has been possible to make the necessary corrections while tabulating the results on the survey. The facts tabulated are a compilation of the data thus collected.

It may be well to state here that since the survey was made the work on the Portland Cement plant was begun. To an outsider this might seem to require a revision of the facts and a re-evaluation of them. However to one acquainted with the real conditions such is not the case.

The cement plant has not made much of any change in the population because, with very few exceptions, those who work there live in Fort Collins and go to the plant in automobiles. Further, it is doubtful if it will change the situation materially in the future in view of the fact that the plan of the company is to build only a very few houses for their employees as most of them prefer to live in Fort Collins.

Therefore apart from increasing the school resources through added taxes its influence upon the population of the community will be much less than was originally anticipated.

#### POPULATION.

This is a predominantly American community. Of all the families interviewed only forty-nine individuals or six percent were of foreign birth, of whom 14 came from Russia, 12 from Germany, 6 from Sweden, 5 from Denmark, 3 from Canada, 2 from

Poland, 2 from England and 1 each from Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Mexico and India.

There are twenty three states represented in the population Nebraska being first in numbers with Iowa and Kansas following close behind. From New York state in the east to California in the west and from the Dakotas in the north to Texas in the south have come those who make up the population of the community.



The Abandoned Buildings  
Cache La Poudre District



A NATIONAL DISGRACE



History of the past in La Porte educational system.





The modern consolidated school building at La Porte.  
The pupils are now transported to and from the school  
in up to date modern auto busses.





Teacherage of the La Porte School.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The first school in the community was located at Claymore Lake. It was built in the summer of 1865. The first pupils were taught by Mr. Adams the following winter. His successor was a Miss Adams, but they were no relation and she in turn was succeeded by Miss Maggie Meldrum. The next school in the community was located at Pleasant Valley, because the families residing there thought it was too far to send their children to Claymore Lake school. The first teacher in this school was Miss Mary Molten, she was succeeded by Miss Meldrum and later by Miss Jane Bosworth.

Both school houses were built by "Uncle" Bennie Whitney and Samuel Bingham.

It is a long way in progress if not in time, from the first school in the community taught by Mr. Adams to the up to date consolidated school system of the present time.

✓ Consolidation was effected in the year 1913. At that time five whole districts and portions of territory from two adjoining districts were included. Six old buildings were replaced by a commodious and substantial brick structure that cost \$30,000.00. There are fifteen rooms in the building and it is modern in every respect. Also a community auditorium that will seat 300 people comfortably.

✓ In the courses of study emphasis is laid largely upon the practical side of education. The curriculum includes courses in Agriculture, Farm Shop and Home Economics, all of which are taught from the practical point of view.



The boys in agriculture conduct their own home projects in farming or stock raising, and the girls are required to do much home practice.

The teachers of the vocational courses are well qualified to give to the pupils a thorough and efficient training.

At the time of consolidation there were eight teachers employed. Now there are thirteen teachers, all of whom have had some college training. With two exceptions all are graduates of normal school or college and those two expect to complete their courses for graduation this summer.

An evidence of the value of consolidation is seen in the comparison of the average generation. The average for the former was eighth grade and for the latter is eleventh grade or in other words the present generation has three years more education than their parents, and, in some respects, superior in type and quality.

The following facts and comparisons tell their own story as to growth, improvement, and conditions. In 1917 there were nine teachers in the school now there are thirteen; then the salaries of the teachers were from \$75.00 to \$133 per month.

Ten years ago the average attendance in both grades and high schools was two hundred and twenty, the average for the present year is two hundred and seventy eight.

The present administration is by a local school board of three members all of whom are men. The superintendent and principal are graduates of the Colorado Agriculture College.

On the faculty there are three men and ten women. Six of these are graduates of a four year college the other seven have had from one to three years of college training. The average teaching experience of the staff is exhibited in Table 1.

TABLE 1  
Salaries of teachers based on education and experience.

Grade	College	Experience	Salary	Time in School
1st	3 yr	4 yr	\$1200	4 yr
2nd	2 "	0 "	1080	0 "
3rd	2 "	10 "	1140	5 "
4th	2 "	8 "	1140	6 "
5th	2 "	3 "	1080	0 "
6th	4 "	0 "	1140	0 "
7th	4 "	15 "	1140	0 "
8th	3 "	4 "	1350	3 "
Average	2.75 "	6 "	\$1160	2.25 "
High	4 yr	0 "	1300	0 "
School	4 "	3 "	1600	0 "
	4 "	3 "	1650	2 "
	4 "	5 "	1800	2 "
	4 "	4 "	2400	4 "
Average	4 "	3 "	\$1670	1.6 "

TABLE 11

Enrollment and attendance in the school.

Grades	Enrollment	Average attendance	Percent of attendance
1st	40	35	88
2nd	34	29	85
3rd	29	26	90
4th	38	34	90
5th	33	30	91
6th	23	21	90
7th	32	30	93
8th	28	26	93
	257	231	90
High	12	12	100
School	13	13	100
	13	13	92
	10	10	100
	48	47	97
Total for school	305	278	92.5

Where failures have occurred among the teachers the following reasons have been given; lack of professional training, lack of professional spirit, failure to co-operate with others, disloyalty to the other members of the faculty and lack of interest and enthusiasm in the work.

The following salaries are paid, on a monthly basis; for truck drivers \$65.00 to \$140.00 per month. All of the drivers but one own their own trucks. They are paid on the basis of 25 cents a mile. The longest route is 28 miles and the shortest is 13 miles for the round trip. The janitor receives \$110.00 a month for the nine months. The superintendent is paid for twelve months at the rate of \$200.00 a month and has free use of the commodious teacherage. The salary of the athletic coach is \$200.00 a month for nine months, and the salaries paid the high school teachers range from \$145.00 to \$175.00 a month. In the grades, teachers receive from \$120.00 to \$135.00 monthly.

Salaries are increased upon the basis of time of service and scholastic improvement. There is one teacher this year who gets the maximum salary of \$135.00; next year there will be four who receive this amount.

So far, there is no definite wage scale for the high school teachers, but the board is working on one for the future. Up to the present time the women teachers have been starting at \$135.00 a month and if retained get about \$5.00 a month raise. The men have begun at \$185.00 a month and are raised about \$10.00 a month for continued service. All the salaries quoted

are for nine months with the exception of the superintendent.

There are 377 listed in the school census. The total enrollment is 305, the average attendance is 278. The pupils are distributed in the grades as follows.

First Grade	-----	40
Second "	-----	34
Third "	-----	26
Fourth "	-----	38
Fifth "	-----	33
Sixth "	-----	23
Seventh "	-----	32
Eighth "	-----	28

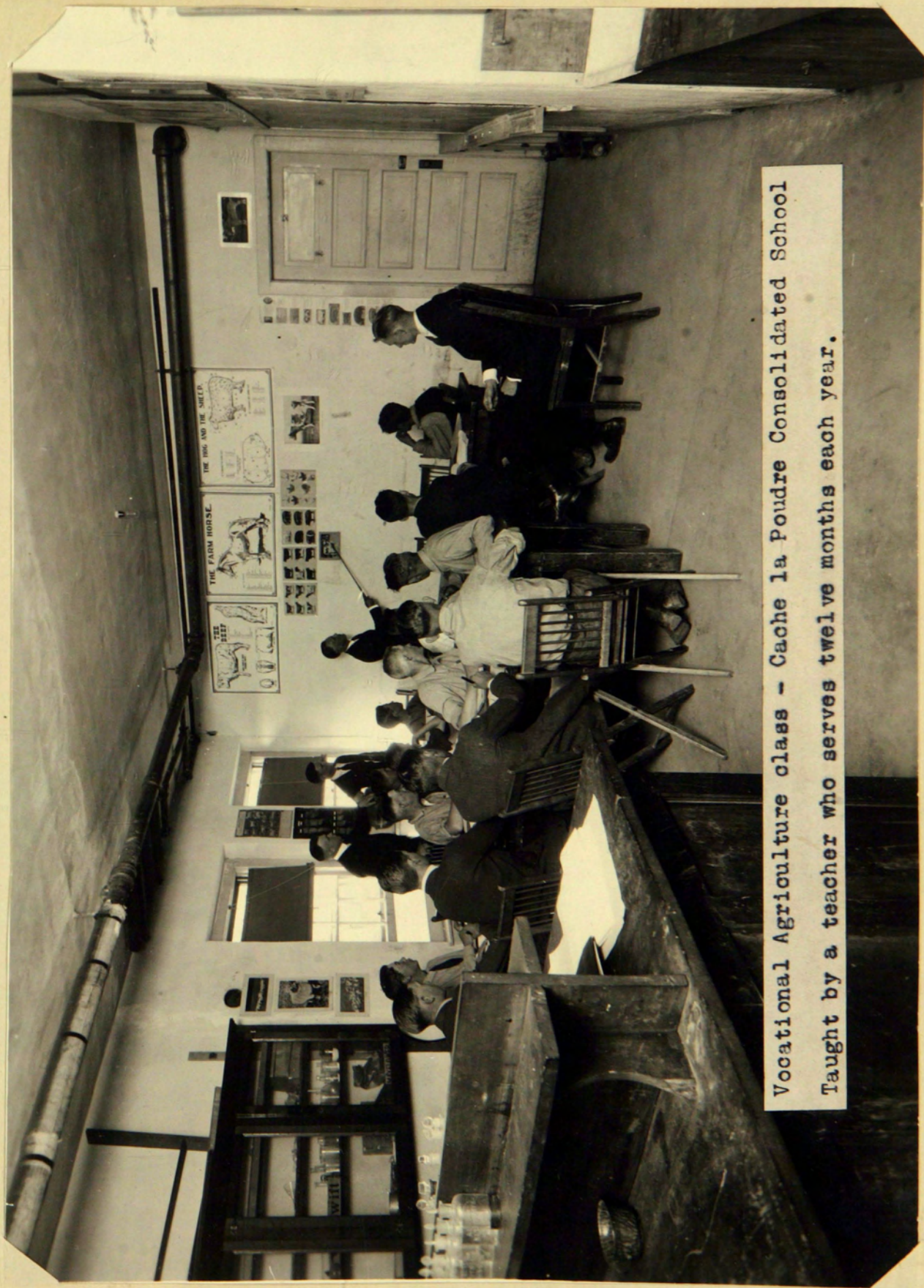
The distribution in the high school is as follows:

First year	-----	13
Second "	-----	14
Third "	-----	11
Fourth "	-----	10

In the grades there is an average of three pupils fail a year in each grade. There are no complete failures in the high school, only in subjects. Failures are attributed mainly to lack of home preparation and too many outside activities. Seldom are they due to lack of mental ability.



Vocational Agriculture class - Cache la Poudre Consolidated School  
Taught by a teacher who serves twelve months each year.







A lesson in stock-judging.





1. Esther Elliott - Bread.
2. Esther Bruce - Health.
3. Edith Lambert - Canning.

Three state champions  
from La Porte.



The belle of the  
school.



Canning champion with  
her prizes.



The subjects in which most failures occur in the high school are given in the order of frequency as follows; Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, Physics and Latin.

Vocational guidance is given only incidentally by the superintendent and teachers. Vocational courses taught are Agriculture, Farm-shop and Home Economics. These meet the requirements of the Smith--Hughes law.

The following concrete results of these courses have been observed in the past four years. Only four of the boys who completed the course in vocational agriculture are putting it into practice. The others have gone into various lines of business. Of the four who are using their training, one is managing his father's farm, which is quite extensive and another is doing considerable managerial work. There is a possibility that some of the others may return to agricultural work. The results are much more encouraging in the Home Economic courses as nearly one hundred percent of the graduates have put it to immediate use.

In the courses of study the General aim is primarily to meet college entrance requirements. As far as consistent with this the practical side of education is emphasized.

The general objectives of the school are to prepare the students for life and fit them to cope with the various social, political, economic and vocational situations. To attain these objectives besides the courses in the class room, personal



Extension class in Pomology.



Garage at La Porte school and class in  
Farm-shop which built it.

talks and occasional addresses are used.

Two years each are given to the following courses in the high school; History, English, Mathematics, General Science, Latin, Home Economics and Agriculture. The last three subjects are elective.

Of vital importance is the relation of the school to the community as a social center. For the pupils this function is fulfilled mostly by occasional parties at the school house. There is nothing in particular for the parents as there is no Parent-Teachers Association. For the community in general there are several entertainments given during the year for which a charge is made. There is a literary society at the school building, twice a month, but it is not under school auspices. As a means of community education extension there are occasional courses of lectures given. Several short courses in such subjects as poultry raising, fruit growing and nutrition have been offered. The interest shown in these has not been all that was desired. On several occasions educational pictures have been shown to fairly large audiences.

The school building is a two story brick structure of sixteen rooms including the basement, where the Home Economic rooms, Chemistry laboratory, agriculture class room and lavatories are located.

The main advantage of the building is that it is all one

unit. There are several distinct disadvantages. The building is not fire proof, floors are poor, most of the rooms are insufficiently lighted, the ventilation is poor, there is not an adequate supply of drinking fountains, not enough lavatory accomodations, the assembly room besides being too small, is poorly arranged and generally unsatisfactory. There is no provision for future needs of the school in the matter of development.

With regard to school hygiene, from 25 to 30 percent of the children suffer from minor defects such as diseased eyes, teeth and tonsils. There is only one mentally defective. A health clinic was held last year with a corps of specialists in attendance. A large percentage of the children were examined and prescribed for. Technically and legally the school meets hygienic requirements but actually it is far short with respect to lavatory equipment. Calisthenics are taught regularly and intelligence tests are given some time during the year.

The wealth of the school district is \$1,712,000.00. Up until about five years ago the school tax was 12 mills, then it was gradually reduced to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mills. However, for next year it will be  $12\frac{1}{2}$  mills in order to clear off accumulated indebtedness.

The present debts of the school are:

Bonds -----	\$25,000.00
Warrants----	\$10,000.00
Total -----	\$35,000.00

For other items of finance see Table 111

Table 111

General control -----	\$1395.00
Instruction -----	17620.00
Operation of plant -----	1800.00
Maintaince of plant-----	250.00
Fixed charges -----	537.27
Debt service -----	3000.00
Capital outlay -----	1350.00
Auxiliary expense and transportation-----	5000.00
Total operation expense -----	25534.00
Grand total expense -----	27000.00

#### SUMMARY ON THE SCHOOL SITUATION.

With regard to organization, the school is quite up to date.

In the opinion of the writer the administration would be improved if a county unit system were in vogue instead of the district board. This opinion is strengthened by two considerations, namely, the school elections since he has been a resident in the community and by the opinions of others in position to judge.

"The county unit system as best developed, the people elect a county board of education of five, who are analogous

to a city board of education for a city. This board then selects and appoints a county superintendent of schools, and such deputy supervisors as are needed; determines the educational policy for the county, and sets financial limitations; manages the schools of the county, outside of cities having a city superintendent as a unit and after much the same method of organization and management as has been found so effective in city school organizations; alters, consolidates, or abolishes the school districts, as the best interests of education require; over-sees the work of its executive officers; determines the county school tax; appropriates all funds; employs teachers, fixes, and pays them their salaries; provides equal educational advantages and length of term for all schools in the county, and free high school advantages for all children; acts as a board of control for any county high school, teacher's training-school, or parental school which may be established; looks after the building and repair of all school buildings, and the purchase of all books and school supplies; and, in general, manages the scattered schools of the county as though they were a compact city school system. Under such a system of school organization educational progress can be made in a year which it would take a decade or more to obtain under the district system."

(Cubberly, "Rural Life and Education" Pages, 191-192.)

"The district system has long outlived it's usefulness and should have been abandoned for a better one in keeping with



the progress we have made in all other things. It is not the fault of the country that their schools are far behind the times. The system is suited only to the pioneer stage of civilization and cannot be made to function efficiently, in spite of the fact that country people today are the most intelligent and the most progressive we have ever had.

Each third class district is governed by a board of three directors and in the average county there are from one hundred to three hundred directors to manage from thirty-five to one hundred different school systems, while a first class district in the same county is governed by a board of five directors, who employ the same number of teachers and have approximately the same number of children to educate. The rural schools of most counties have far more directors than there are teachers employed in their schools.

The district system has become a bad habit and, like all bad habits, it is very hard to break. The system should be replaced by a better one and Colorado educators have made a careful study of our rural schools for more than a decade with that end in view. The National Commissioner of Education and several of his assistants have visited Colorado in an effort to aid in improving our rural schools. And after much study and consideration and the most careful investigation a bill was drawn for the improvement of our rural schools. It is known as the County Unit Bill."

(C. G. Sargent, "Better Country Schools in Colorado")



High school basket-ball team.





High school track team.

TABLE IV

Education of parents and of children above school age.

Education	Parents	Percentage	Children	Percentage
Illiterate	5	1.5	0	0
Quit school in grades	149	49.	47	29.
Completed 8th grade	75	23.	35	21.
One year high school	20	6.15	14	8.1
Two " " "	16	5	15	9.
Three " " "	10	3	11	6.3
Four " " "	19	5.8	13	7.7
One " college	7	2.2	8	5.
Two " "	10	3	6	3.5
Three " "	4	1.25	4	2.4
Four " "	8	2.5	9	5.
Business "	2	.6	5	3.1
* Total	325	100	165	100
Average education	8th grade		11th grade.	

\* There are only about half as many children above school age listed as there are parents, but the proportion of each class may be seen in the percentages.

In the matter of teachers by consulting Table 1 it may be seen that there have been too many changes in the teaching staff and also too many inexperienced teachers for the size of the school. Such a condition is hard on both the children and those in charge of administration. It may be well to add that for next year the number of changes will be greatly reduced.

There still seems to be too large a number who leave school in the grades, the greater enrollment in the lower grades than in the upper grades and high school is not at all encouraging. The causes for this are that children kept out to work get behind and fail to pass their grades then get discouraged and eventually quit. In this respect there seems to be little difference in the foreign and native population. Some fail in the higher grades thru lack of mental ability to do the work. For the first class the first step to remedy the situation is a better enforcement of the state laws for attendance. The second class can best be helped by such methods as ungraded classes or special schools for such where work is adapted to their ability.

The number of failures is probably not above the average. In the causes of failure there is opportunity to improve if the proper methods are used. Probably one cause for the neglect of home study is the fact that too much confidence is placed in the study periods at school, which, however well conducted can not take the place of individual effort.





High school stock-judging team.

There seems to be a tendency in educational circles to over-emphasize extra curricular activities, where this is the case the scholarship inevitably suffers. During the past year there has been an effort on the part of the administration to greatly reduce social functions and entertainment. This has not met a favorable response with the children, however most of the parents have desired it for some time.

In the matter of vocational agriculture the apparent poor results for the past four years work are in all probability due primarily to the unfavorable economic conditions of agriculture during recent years. Locally the past two years have been quite discouraging for those engaged in farming. Doubtless there are other causes such as the attractions of the towns and cities to which most of the boys have gone.

The aims and objectives of the school seem to be in harmony with the trend of modern educational emphasis, namely for a more practical type of education.

"The first step in curriculum making is to decide what specific educational results are to be produced"--Chartiers--  
"How to Make a Curriculum."

"The trend of education is toward usefulness rather than toward comprehensive knowledge." Peters.

"Education is a present activity and not a product to be striven for. It is life and growth in a social environment."  
-- Frazer and Armentrout.

"The mind grows according to its exercise. Ability to function is developed through normal exercise of function. One learns to do a thing through doing it." --Bobbitt in How to Make a Curriculum.

"A pupil can grow only as he practices. This is the law of exercise." -- Kilpatrick.

"Subject-matter, when offered, should be justified on the ground that it functions vitally in one way or another in the lifetime experience of the pupils."-- Clement, Curriculum Making in Secondary Schools.

The school and community service relations could be improved. There is no particular contact between the school and the parents and anything done is left to the initiative of the parents. A special visitation day for the parents or a Parent-Teacher-Association would doubtless be a great improvement and tend to eliminate some of the misunderstanding that has existed in the past.

The community attitude towards the efforts of the school in extension courses is not what it ought to be. For two years a special school in chicken raising was conducted. The first course was well attended, but the second was very disappointing in interest. This has been the case in other efforts made in this direction which evinces an indifference or selfsufficiency that is not contributive to the best interests and progress of either the individual or community.

The school building needs attention and some improvements

to be made where possible. From the point of view of health the lavatory facilities are entirely inadequate. It would be impossible for all the pupils to wash their hands and eat lunch in the time allotted with the present equipment. More drinking fountains should be installed. Unfortunately the auditorium is not arranged for the comfort of capacity crowds, as a third of those present can not get a view of the platform or those participating in the program.

In all probability the future, especially with the prospects of increased revenue from the Cement Company will take care of some of these conditions. In order to reduce risk by fire, modern fire escapes have been provided for the upper floors.

While the percentage of defectives seems large it is gratifying that most of the defects can be remedied by proper medical attention. The health clinic was of great value to the parents who were sufficiently interested to profit by the suggestions of the doctors in charge.

The financial situation needs a word of explanation, for five or six years the levy was being gradually reduced from 12 mills until last year it reached  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mills. In the mean time the running expenses of the school were not reduced, hence the necessity of additional funds to meet the deficit. For the next year the levy will be increased. The school has a record of service and efficiency of which the patrons may be justly proud.

In addition to the formal education offered through the school, there are sources of incidental education that are available. It is of interest to know how these are used.

Foremost in value to a rural population are the instructive government bulletins. Sixty two report the use of these, especially the bulletins which deal with stock raising, crops, poultry, seeds, fruits, spraying, canning, house-keeping, millinery and dressmaking. Most of those using them think they are very helpful in their work. A number expressed themselves as desiring to get them. Some read them quite regularly, while others use them occasionally.

Practically every home receives some paper or magazine, especially a farm periodical. There is an average of two papers and two magazines for each home in the community.

Seventy one homes have a library. These consist for the most part of reference books, fiction, school text books, and religious books. These libraries range in size from a few dozen volumes to several hundred. On the whole the books seem to be well chosen. There are forty three families who use the public library in Fort Collins, some of these use it regularly and others only occasionally.

Forty two families attend the Chatauqua when it is near enough for them to do so.

Other educational opportunities are the Womens' Extension



Club conducted by the Agricultural College and the special courses conducted by the college at occasional intervals.

Through these various channels a large number of the people in the community are keeping themselves well informed. In addition to these a few are taking correspondence courses from various institutions. Eleven are away from home attending school in Fort Collins or some other educational center.

#### COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE SCHOOL.

On the whole the comments about the school are good and indicate a general satisfaction with the system in operation. Among the unfavorable remarks are the following:

Too much athletics.

Too much play.

Too much friction among members of faculty.

Too many side lines.

Should abolish book graft.

Consolidation too expensive.

School too crowded.

Trucks too crowded.

Suggestions for the betterment of the school offered are:

Better school directors.

Have more business courses.

Enlarge the building.

Get better trucks.

Have less friction among the teachers.

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

'Excluding everything under five acres the average size of farm in the community is 80 acres. Five of these farms embrace over 500 acres and the largest individual land holding is 1200 acres. The average value of the land is \$250.00 per acre. The average value of the crop for the year was \$1620.00 and varies all the way from \$50.00 to \$4,000. The average length of time that residents have been in the community is thirteen and one-half years, and the average time on the present place is nine and one half years. This refers to owners. The average time for the renter is five years in the community and two years on the place.

There are over one hundred who own their own places, about one half of these are mortgaged for amounts varying from \$500.00 to \$24,000.00. An average interest of 7 percent is being paid on the mortgages. Fifty eight are renting their places, 32 pay cash rent and 26 pay crop rent. Twenty of these are planning to buy a place of their own. It is gratifying to report that there is no discrimination made between owners and renters in any phase of community life.

One hundred and fifty nine of the families buy most of their supplies in Fort Collins. Seventy five patronize mail order houses and twelve get some supplies in Denver. The articles bought at mail order houses are largely dry goods. Montgomery Ward, Sears Roebuck and the National Cloak and Suit Company are

the most popular mail order houses.

The products sold most frequently on the farms are alfalfa, grain, fruit, vegetables, dairy products and poultry. In the farming activities eighty five report that they raise alfalfa, eighty grow small grain, fifty two raise beets, forty four have fruit orchards, thirty engage in truck gardening, forty do extensive dairying and twenty engage in extensive sheep or cattle feeding. On the whole dairying has been the most profitable while feeding has been attended with considerable hazard and loss the past few years. In round numbers the community has in live stock 550 horses and mules, 600 dairy cows, 1100 calves and young stock, 650 pigs and 13,000 chickens. Only 24 families report that records are kept of their business.

The conditions and care of the farm machinery are items of economic importance. The facts revealed in this regard were 60 cases in which the condition was reported as good, in 20, fair and in 19, poor. In the matter of care, 48 keep their machinery inside and 49 outside; the remainder have part outside and part inside.

There are one hundred and thirty eight barns in the community and the condition of these are as follows; 84 in good condition, 32 in fair condition and 32 in poor shape. Seventeen report modern improvements in their barns. Only twenty have silos.

There are 94 garages and a total of 132 automobiles

TABLE V

Make	Cars	Trucks
Ford	69	12
Dodge	16	7
Chevrolet	13	2
Buick	7	
Hudson	4	
Studebaker	4	1
Reo	4	2
Overland	3	
Essex	2	
Hupmobile	2	
Cadillac	2	1
Star	2	
Willys Knight	1	
Republican		2
Oldsmobile		1
United States		2
National		1
Pontiac	1	
Saxon	1	1
Oakland	1	
Total	132	32

besides 32 trucks. The average cost of transportation is \$168.00 per year.

On the use of the automobiles, 58 report that their cars are used very little for pleasure, 32, that they use them about half for pleasure, 11, one fourth for pleasure, 8 use them much for pleasure, 1 uses his car all for pleasure and 2 do not use them for pleasure; one of these is a Mexican. The cars are used on an average of between one fourth and one half of the time for pleasure, and the remainder for business purposes.

One hundred homes have telephone service and 85 rural free delivery.

Taxes paid range all the way from \$45.00 to \$850.00 per year. The comments on the taxes are uniformly, "Too high."

On 46 farms hired help is employed at an average cost of \$388.50 annually. In addition to this 10 engage help in the home at an average cost of \$250.00 a year.

Of those engaged in farming 130 were originally in this occupation, while 30 others had been engaged in a wide variety of occupations. Among these are telegrapher, mail carrier, truck driver, storekeeper, carpenter, auto mechanic, miner, barber, lumberman, forest ranger, sheriff, newspaper man, and railroader.

While most of those on the farm had been brought up on the farm, only 10 report having had special training for farming such as courses in vocational agriculture or graduates from

an agricultural college. Eleven of the farm women have had special training in home economics.

## SOCIAL

"Sociology is an analysis of human society. Its interests is that of all groups." --Ellwood.

The average size home in the community is five rooms, hence with few exceptions there is no real housing problem. Most of the houses are well located in regard to the work of the farm and distance to road and mail boxes. Of the total number of houses 150 are frame structures and the balance are brick or stone. Only 45 report having basements. Thirty of these homes are completely modern and 50 are partly modern. About 80 percent have some modern conveniences such as washing machines, carpet sweepers, gas and electric irons, refrigerators, telephones and radios.

Most of the homes and home surroundings are clean and well kept. Next to heredity the influences of home surroundings are of vital importance in the future life of our coming citizens. A clean, well kept home will doubtless make for cleaner living than one of filth and disorder.

In almost every home there is some kind of musical instrument and a large number have more than one.

In the matter of health 47 reported as having poor health and 22 as fair, the others reported good health, the most prevalent diseases are rheumatism, lung trouble, stomach trouble and nervous troubles.

The problems of water supply and sewerage are closely



TABLE VI  
Diseases in the Community.

Diseases	Parents	Children	Total	Percentage
Rheumatism	10	2	12	17
Nervous	6	3	9	12.5
Tuberculosis	4	5	9	12.5
Stomach	8	0	8	11
Heart	6	1	7	10
Crippled	1	7	7	10
Mental	1	6	7	10
Asthma	3	1	4	7.5
Diabetes	3	0	3	4
Liver	2	0	2	3
Cancer	2	0	2	3
Gallstones	1	0	1	1.5
	49	24	71	100

related to the question of health. The survey reveals that 16 families haul their water and put it in cisterns. 33 obtain their water from wells with the aid of a pump, a few get their water supply from the river or irrigation ditches, the remainder have it piped into the house from either the Greeley or the Fort Collins water main or from pressure tanks filled by gasoline or electric engines.

The sewerage situation is not so favorable. About seventy five families report no kind of Sewerage system.

#### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

In the activities of the school and church the recreational and social life of the community are fairly well provided for as will be seen under their respective divisions. Apart from these agencies there are other available sources for recreation and social life. About half the families report that they take vacations of various kinds during the year. These vary from a day or two camping and fishing to prolonged visits among relatives in distant places.

Thirty two families report that they attend the movies regularly and 67 report that they attend occasionally or seldom. The comments as to the effects and influence of the movies are decidedly unfavorable especially for children. Less than a dozen think they are good with some qualification and most condemn them to a greater or lesser extent. Forty four families

attend the circus and the same number are members of some club. ✓ A considerable number of parents are putting forth efforts to keep their children on the farm. Twenty three are doing so by giving them more education along agricultural lines, 21 are giving their children more recreation, 22 are letting them have an interest in stock and crops, and 7 report they are having more modern improvements on the farm and in the home. All of these have the same end in view.

Politically the community is made up of 95 republicans, 50 democrats, 15 nonpartizan and 5 prohibition. Three hundred vote regularly. Nearly all of those who vote the two old party tickets do so because their parents did. Few give any other reason for so doing.

The attitude towards the government is good, a few feel there is room for improvement, one or two think things are pretty bad, some want the government to do more for the farmer.

In answer to the question on the strong points of the community the things most frequently mentioned are, good school, the church, people are neighbourly, good location, near a good town, progressive, good roads, spirit of co-operation, extension club, community hall.✓

On the weak points mentioned we have to consider the part of the community from which they come, for example several in Bellvue mentioned such items as too many churches, little co-operation and town dead.

TABLE VII  
Nationalities represented.

Country	Parents	Children	Total
United States	311	491	802
Russia	10	4	14
Germany	10	2	12
Sweden	4	2	6
Denmark	4	1	5
Canada	2	1	3
England	2	0	2
Poland	2	0	2
Ireland	1	0	1
Scotland	1	0	1
Mexico	1	0	1
Spain	1	0	1
India	1	0	1
Total	350	501	851

TABLE VIII

States represented --24

State	:Number of: :Families :	State	: Number of : Families
Colorado	: 66	:West Virginia	: 2
Nebraska	: 15	:Texas	: 2
Iowa	: 14	:Tennessee	: 1
Kansas	: 13	:New York	: 1
Missouri	: 12	:Pennsylvania	: 1
Illinois	: 9	:Ohio	: 1
New Mexico	: 7	:Georgia	: 1
Oklahoma	: 7	:California	: 1
Wyoming	: 4	:Alabama	: 1
Kentucky	: 3	:Indiana	: 1
Wisconsin	: 3	:Oregon	: 1
South Dakota	: 3	:Minnesota	: 1



From the community in general the following comments were made, too near Fort Collins, too much friction, too many foreigners, people too busy and self-centered, too much gossip, lack of community spirit.

Regarding the contentedness of the people 91 replied that they were content, some of these wished for better times for the farmer. Thirty seven registered discontent. The reasons given are no modern improvements on the farm, poor pay for work and more excitement in the cities, irrigation and beet raising too hard work, too much hard work and no profit, country too lonesome, lack of conveniences, higher education and easier jobs lead away from the farm. The causes most frequently mentioned were hard work, lack of improvements and unprofitableness of farming. To the question "What would you do if you could?" the replies were as follows: "teach school, do office work, get more education, travel and settle in town, go to California, have a modern home in the country, study music, be a missionary, go back to stock ranch, anything but farm.

Most of the people prefer to stay on the farm if some conditions could be remedied.

## RELIGION AND MORALS.

Religion is a phase of social life and an important item in sociology. Historically the church has preceeded the school. The beginning of religious work in the community is an interesting story. The first Sunday school was in a little log house. In order to make the room look as attractive as possible it was lined with calico. Mrs. John Hanna was the first teacher in the Sunday School. The building is still in the community and is now used for a barn. Mr. Swift, from the Big Thompson was the first one to hold services.

After the new school house was built the Sunday School and church services were held in it. Here Mr. Marsh had charge of the Sunday School and Mrs. Marsh was secretary. Opposition was raised by a resident who came to the Sunday school and declared that it was not needed. He was taken care of by two of the men who carried him to his home and shut him in. No further opposition was encountered and the school prospered.

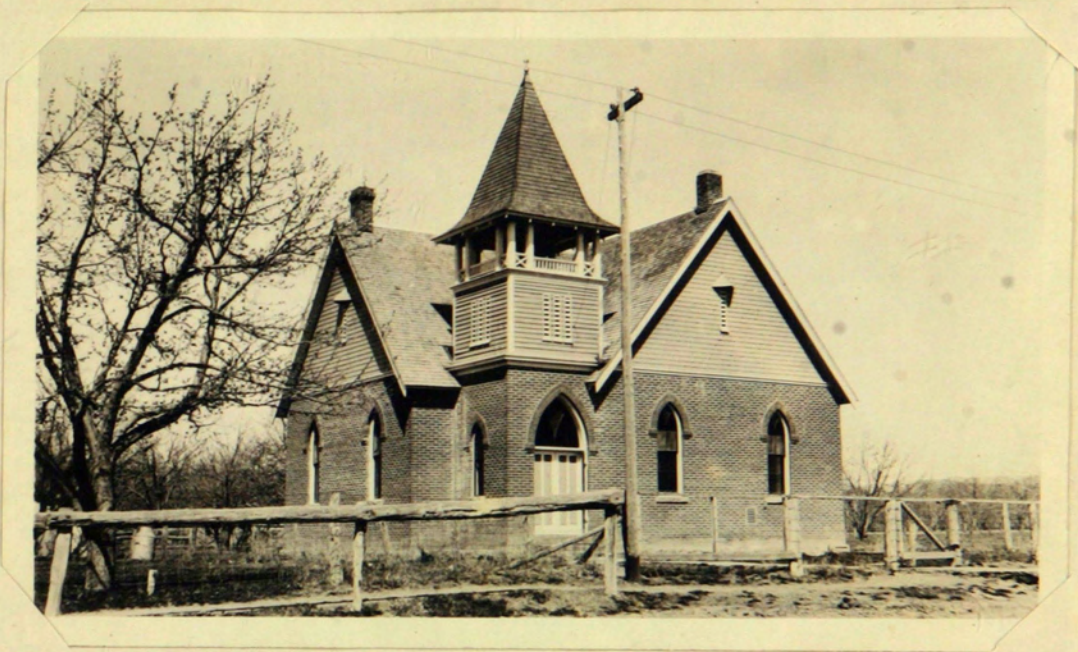
On June 3rd, 1900 Mr. W. H. Schureman, a Sabbath School Missionary of the Presbyterian Church, reorganized the Sunday school in the La Porte School house. In July of the same year the Rev. A. McIntyre began regular preaching services. The Rev. W. H. Rankin, Synodical evangelist conducted special meetings from September 3rd to 23rd. At the fall meeting of the Presbytery of Boulder a petition was presented for the

organization of a church. A committee consisting of the Revs. W. A. Hunter, Franklin Moore, A. McIntyre and Elder C. P. Gillette was appointed to carry out the plans of organization. On September 23rd. 1900 a meeting was held and the organization was completed with about forty charter members. Since the organization of the church there have been nine pastors, one of these remained for ten years. The present pastor has been here for three and one half years. The present membership of the church is one hundred and thirty five.

While the church is Presbyterian in name it is community in spirit and service.

A few years ago a community hall was built adjoining the church. Here is held most of the community activities. In the fall of each year a carnival is held which attracts a large gathering from all over the community. In the hall the men and the women of the community play volley ball, and the high school uses it for their basket ball games. It is also used as a polling place during elections and for various community meetings and gatherings, such as ditch meetings and young peoples socials; the Boy Scouts meet here also the Camp fire girls.

During the past year the church had a monthly church night. On these occasions there is a covered dish supper served and a lecturer of repute is brought to give an address on some interesting subject. The attendance has been very good at these meetings.



La Porte Community (Presbyterian) Church before  
the addition of the community hall.



La Porte Community (Presbyterian) Church  
showing the community hall.



TABLE 1X

Distribution of Church Membership.

Denomination	Families	Individuals
Presbyterian	53	144
Roman Catholic	19	77
Lutheran	14	34
Methodist	20	33
Baptist	15	30
Church of Christ	9	20
German Evangelical	2	14
Christian	6	13
Seventh Day Adventist	6	11
Pilgrim Holiness	8	10
Mormons	4	8
Episcopal	2	2
Total	158	385

TABLE

Age when united with church.

Under 10	10-20	20-30	30-40	Over 50
104	84	95	56	12

There are three other churches in the community located at Bellvue, the Christian Church, Pilgrim Holiness and Seventh Day Adventist. Their lack of equipment, regular services and community program has greatly retarded their progress. The sentiment of the community both old and young is greatly in favor of a community church.

It is hoped that some day when long standing grudges can be forgotten that one church will serve all the religious needs as one school serves the educational needs of the entire community. Table lX on the religious situation, shows that there are thirteen denominations represented in the religious composition of the community. A few of the families go to Fort Collins in order to attend a Church of their choice.

Of the total numbers of families 86 attend church regularly, 49 attend occasionally or seldom, and 35 never attend. With regard to the Sunday School 74 families attend regularly, 46 attend seldom, and 50 never attend. The total contributions to religious causes is about \$4000.00 or an average of \$38.00 for those families who contribute or an average of \$23.00 a year for all families interested. Figure 3 shows the comparative costs of religion and other items. It is quite evident that religion is not the most expensive element in the lives of the people.

The salary of the minister of the community church is \$1500.00 and a manse. In the other churches there is no regular minister except the Pilgrim Holiness and there is no fixed salary for the services.

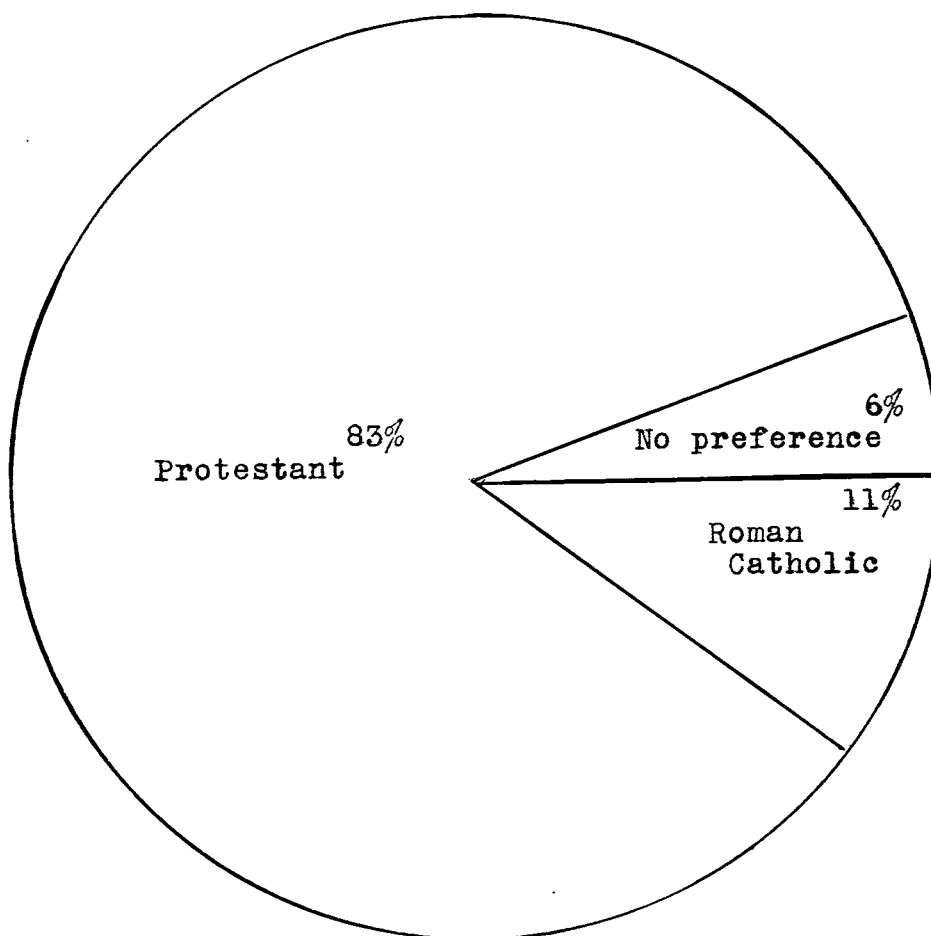


Figure 2 -- Distribution of Protestant,  
Roman Catholic and those  
having no preference.

Thirty four individuals expressed themselves as preferring the city to the country churches. Their reasons given were that the city church provides much nicer buildings, better music and preaching also that they were used to the city church.

#### COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON RELIGION AND MORALS.

To the question "Is the church doing it's duty?" the large majority answered yes, a few answered no, others that it could do better, some who attend in Fort Collins said that country members were neglected in the matter of visitation.

On the need of the church various opinions were expressed; regular attendance, sociability among the members, interest in those outside the church, consistency on the part of the members, more leaders, Bible preaching, more liberal, more entertainments, better financial support, community singing, short services, better moral support, impartiality, be more strict.

Suggestions for the Church are; have a community church with no creed, get more co-operation from the homes, police the dances to prevent bootlegging, quit nagging, old folks too critical, more prayer, old folks set better example, more music, give good advice and relieve the needs of people, have more club work, more socials, and young people's meetings, more visiting by the members of the church.

The comments on the morality of the community are with very few exceptions good, a few think there is room for improvement



and one or two think that there is a decided need in this direction.

#### SUMMARY ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Farming continues to be rather unattractive from the economic point of view. When we compare the average income with the average cost of land and expense of operation and maintainance it is surprising that we did not have more failures in the field of agriculture the past few years. In this community very few lost their places through financial reverses. This is probably due to several factors, the small number who are in feeding enterprises in the community, the variety in crops grown and the number who are depending more or less on dairying and poultry products.

There is need for several changes in the existing conditions. The fruit, particularly the apples, grown are not of a quality to compete with the increasing competition in the local markets. Most of the orchards need to be replenished with younger trees and a better variety.

A larger number could profitably engage in dairying on a more extensive scale than at present. It seems to be one of the most dependable and profitable sources of income in the community.

Like so many other communities the burden of mortgages and interest is one of the foremost economic problems.

The problem of tenancy is not so great here as in some other sections, yet it is sufficiently large to have its effect upon

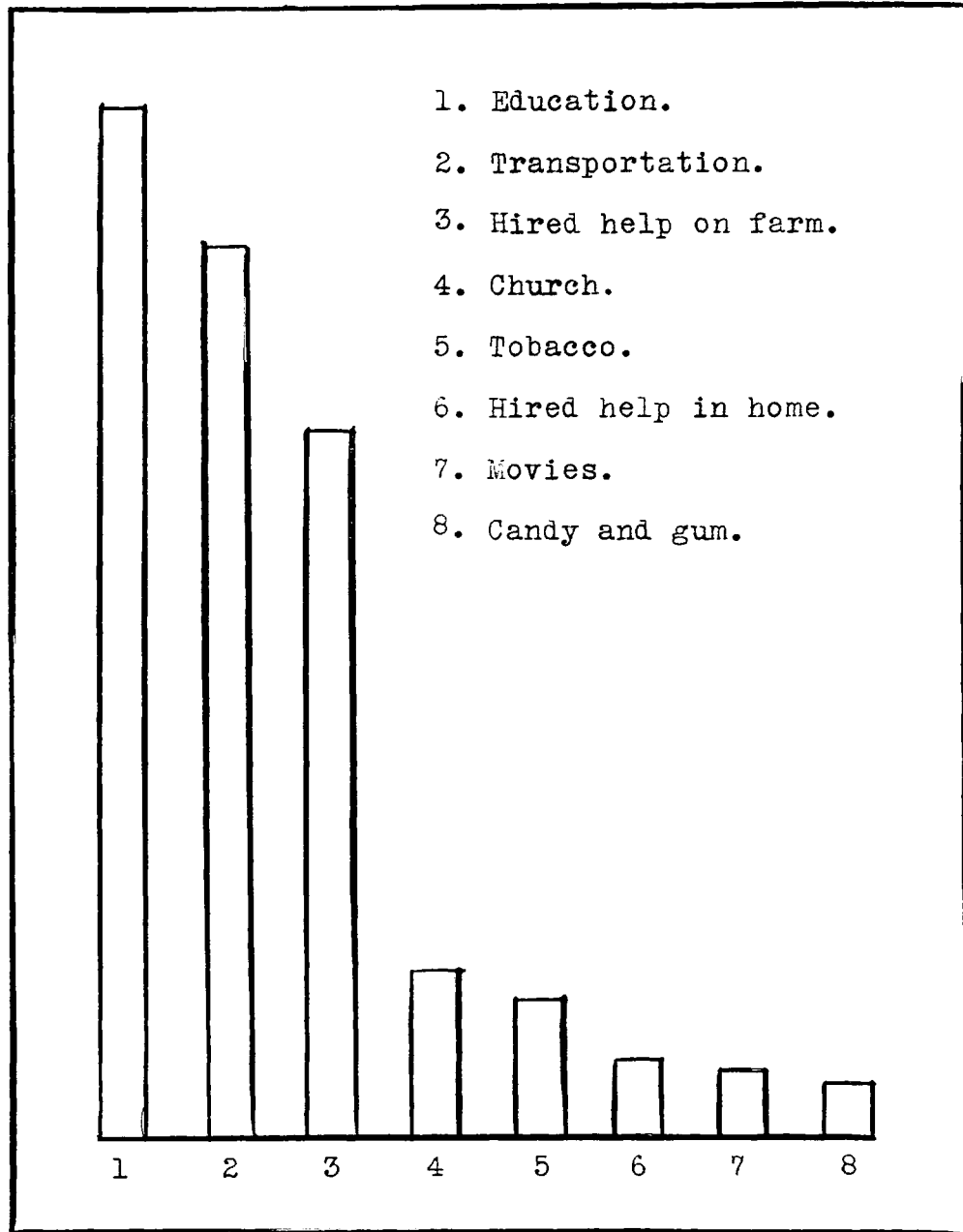


Figure 3-- Comparative costs.

some phases of community life.

One of the greatest drawbacks in the community is the lack of a popular trading center, if only half of those who buy most of their supplies in Fort Collins traded in the community regularly it would revolutionize the community spirit. There is opportunity here for one with sufficient enterprise, resources and ability to make good along this line. The popular store conducted by "Ted" Herring is too near the outskirts of the community to accomplish this.

The farming activities are sufficiently diversified to insure reasonable success under normal conditions.

A large number do not seem to appreciate the value of taking care of their farming equipment. Fortunately our climate is more favorable to those who are careless in this regard. There is good provision with regard to housing of horses and cattle, however there is little modern equipment in the barns.

If the silo has proved to be of real economic value there is need for a more extensive use of it here, as is evidenced by the small number found.

In the cost of transportation there doubtless lies one of the reasons that makes a larger income for the present day farmer necessary. Taken together with the cost of depreciation in cars used it necessitates a larger outlay than before the auto came into general use. Many present day farmers spend

more for automobiles than their fore fathers had to live on.

✓ The cost of hired help is of vital importance and probably is a chief reason why some of those farming on a large scale do not succeed better.

✓ While the number is small who have had special preparation, a large percentage engaged in farming have the advantage of the training that comes through experience. Among those who came from other occupations we get some of the failures in agriculture.

The size of the homes are in nearly every case adequate for the needs of the family, especially in these days when the large family is almost a thing of the past. It is an item of interest and surprise that only 45 of the homes report having the convenience of a basement. For a rural community there is a good proportion of the homes equipped partially or fully with some of the modern conveniences. It is commendable that the residents take pride in having their property attractive in appearance.

In the matter of health, the situation seems to be as good as the average. There are some matters pertaining to the health problem that should have attention. Provisions for better sanitation need to be made in a large number of cases, and too many are obtaining their water supply from unprotected sources.

✓ The recreation of the community seems to be fairly well provided for through the church and the school. In fact sentiment seems to favor a lessening in social activities. In this respect a number of text books in Rural Sociology need to be revised

because they describe conditions that have largely passed away or that are fast going.

The comments on the movies calls for investigation on the part of all who are interested in the highest mental and moral welfare of our country.

✓A good number of parents are making an earnest endeavor to keep their children on the farm, this is a hard task with so many discouragements on the farm and so many apparent attractions away from it. While the community is sound politically and almost entirely free from radical opinions it is unfortunate that so many have their politics based more upon tradition than upon reason.

The comments on the strong points in the community would indicate that it is in many respects a desirable place in which to live.

Comments on the weak points can best be understood by those who have resided here long enough to know the real situation. Doubtless some of these have a basis in fact, should not be allowed to influence our opinion in the wrong direction too far. They merely indicate that the community is not yet one hundred percent perfect.

Regarding the contentment, the number content is probably as good an average as in many other occupations. The causes for discontent indicate that conditions on the farm are yet far from ideal for some of those engaged in it. However some of these are but a part of the general economic and social



stress through which we have passed since the close of the war.

### CONCLUSIONS.

The scope of the survey is entirely too limited to either generalize or dogmatize upon conclusions. The value of the work is primarily, if not exclusively local in application. Some of the values for those concerned are that it visualizes the field and defines more clearly the task before us. These are of special importance to the leaders in the various community activities.

Generally speaking the survey leads one to the conclusion that we have here a community above the average in several respects: The country life beautiful is here in no stinted measure. The achievements and activities of the community are a source of inspiration. From the educational stand point the record and standing of the community are very creditable; and the moral, religious and social status are on a high plane.

There are some dangers to be avoided and conditions to be corrected. Some of the facts of the survey indicate that we may carry certain phases of education too far. No one side of education can be safely emphasized to the neglect of some other. There is an evident need for some commercial branches to be taught in the school. Some of the high school students leave school before graduation in order to take commercial courses elsewhere, others who graduated have gone into commercial operations.

The problem of educators today is to determine for whom certain types of education is intended and endeavor to meet the needs as far as possible.

Another danger to be avoided is the over emphasis of social activities. It is true that in the past we have neglected this phase of life but the school and the church need to beware and not go so far in this respect that there is time neither for education nor religion.

There are some distinct needs in the neighborhood, among which are, some form of co-operative marketing, an economic community center such as a combined store and creamery, a unified and intensified community spirit, and a solution for the denominational situation in the Bellvue section. The Church needs to recognize the value of a continued pastorate, as Warren H. Wilson says "Continuance is essential to the soul" also "Farmers are used to change and have not given much thought to permanence in the pastorate."

Finally we would like to express our opinion upon the value of the survey method. As a whole it is a very valuable undertaking and one which every leader in a small community ought to do. One must remember, however that the gathering of the facts is only of secondary importance to the right interpretation of them. It is doubtful if this can be done by one who is a stranger to the situation.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

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