

possible from swamp or marsh, and so elevated as to admit of easy drainage.

"There should be a well or other means of procuring water so placed and guarded as to be perfectly secure against pollution from surface drainage or filth of any kind.

"The area of the school site should be not less than half an acre in extent and if the school population of the section exceeds seventy-five, the area should be one acre.

"The school-house should be placed at least thirty feet from the public highway."

Mr. W. Stetson, State Superintendent of Schools in Maine, to whom I am indebted for a copy of that State's School Report for 1896, says:—

"In selecting a site for a school building, the principal items to be considered are size, soil, drainage, sightliness, and location in the community using the school-house. The lot should have an area of not less than one acre, and should have a frontage of about 180 feet and a depth of about 240 feet. \* \* \*

"The lot selected should have as many natural features of beauty as possible. The outlook should be as interesting and varied as circumstances will admit. It should not be in a low, damp place. It is better that it should not be on the top of a bleak hill. A slightly rolling area, in a reasonably sheltered section is the most desirable. The building should be so located as to give a sunny playground and yet prevent, as far as possible, the direct rays of the sun from falling upon the desks during school hours.

"Great care should be taken in selecting a lot for a school building either in the country or in a village, to have it so located that the school will be as little disturbed as possible by passing travel, and by industries that are carried on in the community. Reasonably quiet surroundings are essential conditions to the best work in the class-room. The disadvantages of dust and other annoying conditions are too apparent to need special mention. A community cannot afford to sacrifice quality of soil, sightliness, elevation, drainage and quiet to the single item of central location.

"The school building should be placed about 100 feet from the street or road, and as near the centre of the lot, from right to left, as the conformation of the ground will permit."

In Prince Edward Island, even our present schools should have at least half an acre, and if they are consolidated there should be at least one acre, and for reasons which I purpose to offer later on, I think there ought to be two or more acres for each of the large, new consolidated schools which would result from adopting the system I have tried to outline.

Then, again, there is the question of Inspection. It is no reflection upon any of the three present Inspectors or upon their predecessors, nor upon any men who may hereafter fill their positions, to say that neither they nor others