

of life of the shop girls in the stores of that city, led the proprietors of those stores voluntarily within a fortnight to introduce regulations materially improving the conditions of work within their stores. I might quote abundant examples of the influence on the individual as upon civic authorities.

The exhibition must be a census or survey of conditions of life in the community, must provide, in a way hitherto unprovided, succinct data of the utmost value to all interested in civic conditions.

Thus, in short, we propose to appeal to, and interest all classes of the community, from the City Council and those in authority, down to the occupier of the poorest tenement. We propose to interest the

father, the mother, and the child, to rouse public opinion, and while affording an interesting survey of what is already being accomplished, to expose openly the loss we suffer through waste, neglect, and preventable disease. And in doing this we have a wider outlook for good than in this one city. We hope that our endeavors will afford the nucleus, and more than that, of an exhibition which later may be at the disposal of other cities in the Dominion. Already, indeed, we are being beset with enquiries from these other cities of the Dominion, so that we are preparing material which will throw light on conditions not merely in Montreal, but throughout our Dominion, and in this way we believe that we are really carrying on a work of national importance.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

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I have been asked to write an article on school buildings, a big subject and one on which many authorities have expressed their views. I shall, however, endeavor only to give in condensed form the chief or vital points pertaining to school work.

Before starting on the actual building, I would like to say a few words in connection with the usual course followed by the average school committee. When a new school has to be built, they usually put in an advertisement, "Plans wanted," or "Architects look," thinking, no doubt, that they will catch the eye of some good man. The good men see them without doubt, but fail to see why they should give up valuable time in presenting to the committee something which they will not pay for, as in nine cases out of ten a local man gets the job, and it is hardly reasonable to suppose that all local men can be the best. Therefore, the good men have learned to leave these competitions alone.

Committees should decide to call in one architect who they know to be capable, and place the building in his hands, and the result will be satisfactory; and let me say, never engage an architect who offers to do work for less than another. Architects who resort to this means of getting work can be classed as either "young and inexperienced," or "has beens," or "dishonest," who will seek the balance of full

fee by indirect and crooked methods. And no fair-minded and honest committee should be willing to take advantage of such offer and accept services for nothing.

We will now say a few words as regards the site.

There are very few towns that are unable to secure ample area of ground for the school. One must always have in mind that abundance of fresh air is a necessity, that clear unobstructed light is of vital importance, and that absence of dust and noise are things to be sought. Also, that the site be preferably higher than the street, as low lots are not particularly healthy, and are difficult to drain properly.

Now, with these remarks, we may consider the building itself. Externally the building should express, by its general character, the purpose for which it is erected. It should be simple and dignified and built for permanence and endurance. If possible, all schools should be fireproof, but, unfortunately, very few are so built, and yet with concrete construction this can be done with very small increase of cost over the ordinary method, and I cannot see how school boards can read of the awful loss of life that occurs once in a while and still adhere to the old way. No saving in school construction can compensate for the loss of one little life.