

DEFECTS IN OTHER SCHOOLS WHICH MAKE THEM UNSAFE FOR CHILDREN

Common Council Committee's Pointed Report on Winter St., Dufferin and Newman Street School Buildings—Small Children on the Upper Floors in Some Cases—Lack of Proper Fire Protection—Some Unsuitable Sanitary Arrangements.

The common council committee's report on the Winter street school is as follows:— Brick building; heated by hot water; Burney heaters; principal, Mr. Stoddard; janitor, Charles Thompson, has been so 5 years; number of pupils about 600. All class rooms open inward instead of outward; 4 class rooms on first floor—Grades 1, 2, 7, & 8.

of age. The measurements of the doors and stairways are as follows, and you can judge by that if it is properly planned or speedy exits.

Front doors outside 4 ft. 8 in. opening inwards. Front doors inside 4 ft. 8 in. opening inwards. Back door leading to porch, 3 ft. Porch door 1 on each side, 2 ft. 8 in. Stairs, 4 ft. between wall post and sheathing cap 3 ft. 9 in.

We found a large self feeder filled with good fire in the corner of the hall directly behind the front door and close to the class room on the north east corner and both class room doors closed. The stoves in class rooms and hall appeared to be properly protected and in good order.

There are no fire escapes here nor any fire extinguishers. A fire escape may not be absolutely necessary, but at least 2 fire extinguishers should be placed in this building, one for each flat. There has been no fire drill for a year. No alarm bell. The small children on 2nd floor should be removed to ground floor. The exit door in rear opens inward. This should be remedied and doors made to open outward.

The Dufferin School, Elm Street. Three-story and manor roof—Principal, Mr. Brown.

Planned similar to Alexandra school. Entrance and exit doors same, and same objections. Measurements entrance doors halls and stairs as follows:— Front doors, outside, 3 ft. 1 in., 2 of each. Front doors, inside, 3 ft. 1 in., 2 of each. Back doors, outside, 3 ft. 1 in., two of each. Back doors, inside, 3 ft. 1 in., two of each.

Basement scrupulously clean. Asphalt flooring. Toilet apartments here, separate sections for boys and girls. Wide approaches from first floor thence by stairways. One exit from furnace room opens inward. Entrance doors of main building on north and south sides are planned same as those of the Alexandra school, and same objections and recommendations are applicable. All class room doors open outward, but exits from class to clothes rooms inward. This latter should be changed.

Brown agreed with us on this point. The assembly room is on 3rd floor. Eastern section capable of seating 500 pupils. Same objectionable feature as in the Alexandra school as to seating arrangements, except that Mr. Brown, so far as he could, has made the chairs stationary by placing strips of wood underneath them all along the aisles, but has not made them stationary or affixed them to the floor. We recommend stationary seats. The assembly room doors open outward, 2 doors, and are kept open when this room is used.

The attention of the trustees is called to the state of this room. The ceiling in places shows signs of weakness, and is liable to fall at any time. The N. E. chimney should be repaired, as it is in a dangerous state and liable to fall on scholars while at play outside. The trustees have been long ago notified of the defects, but they have done nothing to remedy them.

There is a skylight to the roof from 3rd floor, but no ladder thereto that we saw. We recommend trustees to place a suitable ladder stationed in hall for instant use should occasion arise. Fire Escapes—There is an apology for a fire escape on this building, and in our opinion, as well as that of the principal, should the school attempt to use it in time of need, loss of life would occur. It is a delusion and a snare. We strongly recommend its immediate removal and replacing of a proper fire guard. Fire signals are the same in Alexandra school. We did not ask for an exhibition of the fire drill. Number of pupils about 300. Rooms as follows:— On first floor there are four class rooms, grades 1, 2 and 3.

Two rooms of grades 1 and 2, 60 each. principal's 30. Second floor, four class rooms, grades 2, 3, 4 and 5, 50 each. Third floor, two rooms, grades 4 and 5, 50 each.

St. Peter's School, Elm Street. No. 1 Boys' School. Scholars in attendance 350.

Two-story wooden building, 3rd floor not used. No fire escapes. Principal, Mr. Coll. Class rooms on ground and 2nd floors. Exit doors open outward. Cloak room doors inward. We recommend all doors open outward. There is a rear exit by stairs on outside of building on west side for use of pupils in rear of 2nd flat, and they can also leave the building by doorway leading into main hall on 2nd floor, then down by front stairs. The platform stairway in front portion of building from 2nd story to ground floor should be remodelled and made safer. In our opinion, as at present constructed, it is unsafe in case of emergencies. The smaller children's class rooms are on ground floor except one grade, which is on 2nd floor. No fire escapes nor chemical fire extinguishers. We recommend both fire drill, none in winter. Fire signal in each class room, which can be struck from principal's room. Fire drills are not as frequent in summer as they should be. The Ladies' School taught by the Sisters. This building has a frontage of about 150 feet fronting near Fort Howe, and has two entrances, one on the west and the other on eastern side. Single doors open outward. No fire escapes or chemical fire extinguishers. We recommend both to be furnished. On the second floor are the schools 8 rooms in all, a long hall separating them, and pupils can either go out from eastern or western end of hall.

Stoves in each class room. We found all of them in first class condition and safe. They are Globe stoves and self feeders. 330 pupils.

Fire drill is had in summer, but not in winter. One alarm gong in hall, which can be struck from lower or 2nd floor.

NEW BRUNSWICK AND AGRICULTURE

Practical Suggestions About Improving the Most Important Occupation in This Province.

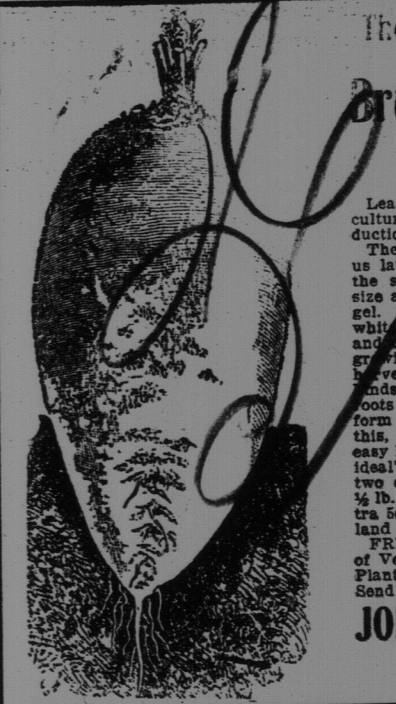
To the Editor of The Telegraph. Sir,—A recent editorial in your paper dealt with the N. B. Agricultural situation in a manner which must commend itself to every thoughtful reader. As a matter of fact, the agricultural problem is to my mind one of the greatest which the new government is called upon to consider.

When a government grants a bonus for the erection of cheese factories, pork-pickling establishments and other useful enterprises, it strikes me that its duty is not thereby fulfilled, but rather just begun.

What the ordinary farmer wants to know is not how much money is to be spent by a government in encouraging the manufacture, storage, etc., of the products of the farm, but rather how to expend his energy to produce the greatest possible return from the soil.

What does it matter to him whether he has barns or not if he has no crop to store up? When the crop is assured the barn will be erected in ample time for its accommodation.

In the past we have heard lecturers discourse splendid theories at farmers' conventions, but such theoretical knowledge needs actual demonstration before it carries conviction to the minds of practical men. Just here let me quote from a lecture which I was privileged to hear at Clark University, Worcester, Mass., a short time ago. President Hall was speaking of the need of agricultural education and how this could best be provided. A striking illustration was used in the course of his remarks which I believe might be successfully worked out in New Brunswick. A few years ago, the state legislature of Illinois felt that the farmers were not getting from the soil returns which were commensurate with the amount of labor expended, and decided to open up a department of agriculture in connection with the State University. This was done, and two weeks to hear scientific farming discussed from a modern point of view. No body came. Not to be outdone, the college authorities resolved to reach out for the boy who succeeded in raising the three largest ears of corn in the state. The competition was keen and produced good results. In fact, so interested did the boys become in the competition that they gladly accepted the offer of a free course in agriculture for two weeks in the year. In these lectures, actual farm work was done besides lectures on the growth and cultivation of crops. Upon returning to their homes, they began competitions with



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the latter, the boys by the use of modern methods, almost invariably succeeded in raising the larger crops from the same quantity of land.

As a result, no less than seven hundred farmers at once presented themselves for the free course which they had formerly their fathers, and much to the chagrin of the State. There is every reason to believe that the results of this work will be far-reaching, not only in increasing the farmers' wealth, but what is just as important in arousing and maintaining the interest of the boys in agricultural pursuits, thus assisting in solving the problem of how to keep the boys on the farm.

It may be that such a plan as this could be worked out in New Brunswick. We have an excellent State University—several acres of cleared land—new chairs of forestry and chemistry being introduced. Surely everything is propitious for some practical work along agricultural lines.

The whole question of the kind of education which shall be prescribed for the youth of the province is one very closely connected with the agricultural situation and one which some day will be forced upon the educational authorities.

Trusting that the above suggestions may be pertinent to our own situation, and thanking you for the use of so much valuable space, I remain, H.P. DOLE.

Teachers College, Columbia University, N. Y., April 10. Marine Notes. Captain Augustus Cann, of Yarmouth (N. S.), has sold his right to people in Sydney. Captain Howard Hebb, underwriter's agent at Halifax, is in connection with the disabled schooner Constance, which was driven ashore at Musquash and afterwards towed here for repairs. Harry Muir, of Shelburne, who has been attending the marine school in Yarmouth, passed his examinations last week and received a certificate as master of foreign going ships. The schooner Oscar F., Captain Stewart Oliver, owned by F. R. Elliott of Fort George, and others, went ashore off Parker's Cove last Friday afternoon. The schooner was from St. John to Fort George with merchandise. There was no insurance on vessel. C. F. R. steamer Montreal, which left here for London, took away 104 head of cattle, 600 of them from the United States.

Court News. The R. A. Estey estate, Fredericton, was before the equity court, Chief Justice Baker presiding, yesterday, on an application for further instructions as to whether or not interest should be allowed on claims since the date of assignment, and what costs, if any, to the different parties in the suit should be allowed against the estate. Dr. Earle informed the court that it was the intention of his client, George McKean, to appeal from the decision of his Honor, made in October last, refusing his claim as a preference upon the estate. In order to facilitate the settlement of the estate, his Honor intimated that he would hand down his decision at Fredericton today, and lawyers consented that Dr. Earle should have his appeal heard before the supreme court which will open tomorrow in Fredericton.

The case of Randolph v. Randolph, which has been before the courts for four years, was further continued. The case will be appealed to the supreme court of Canada. Donaldson liner Cassandra, now on her way Glasgow, took away 26 Canadian cattle.

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Advertisement for Union Clothing Co. featuring a 'Greatest Spring Clothing Sale of the Season' with 'A SALE OF INTEREST TO ALL WISE BUYERS'. The ad includes details about the sale starting on Wednesday, April 15th, and ending on Saturday, April 25th. It lists various clothing items like suits, overcoats, and trousers, and emphasizes the low prices and the opportunity for buyers. The address is 26-28 Charlotte St. Opp. City Market, St. John, N. B., managed by Alex. Corbet.