

## Precautions with Electricity

All Conductors Should be Treated as "Live" Until Definitely Known Otherwise

The installation, maintenance and use of electrical equipment and appliances involve an element of danger not encountered in other lines, and the performance of such work requires the exercise of extreme care to avoid difficulties. Safety demands that the electrical worker be constantly alert, especially where high potentials are handled, and that he possess a knowledge of the fundamental laws of electricity.

Electrical conductors carrying current and those not carrying any are identical in appearance. This fact alone emphasizes the importance of treating all conductors as "live" until the contrary is definitely shown. Elementary technical education and industrial training would prove of great value to electrical workers. While a great majority of electrical accidents are not due to ignorance of danger, the carelessness sometimes shown could be eliminated by teaching the workman every detail as to the source and nature of the danger. Unsafe "shortcut" methods are often employed by incompetent men, whereas there are safe and equally quick ways of performing the same work.

Most of the appliances and wiring are practically "fool-proof", but not always proof against the knife and screw-driver of the amateur electrician. The appliances usually remain perfectly safe until some unmistakable evidence shows that something has gone wrong. This may be a blown fuse, flickering lights, difficulty in turning the current on or off, sparking, or apparent total absence of current. In all cases, unless one is certain of the cause and knows how to remove it, a competent man should be called before serious trouble or accidents develop. In handling electrical appliances or wires, one should not stand on or touch any metallic, wet or damp object, as this may be in contact with the ground. A particularly dangerous practice is to turn an electric light on or off with one hand while the other is in contact with a tap or telephone or other metallic substance or while standing in a bath or while wet from a bath. There is very little danger when one stands on a dry, wooden floor or carpet. Most of the accidents reported happen in damp cellars, bathrooms, or near taps, pipes, etc.—L.G.D.

In spring, gather up the bones which have accumulated during the winter and bury them at the roots of trees, bushes, etc. They make excellent fertilizer.

## School Life and Schools

Greater Attention Must be Paid to Making Schools Attractive

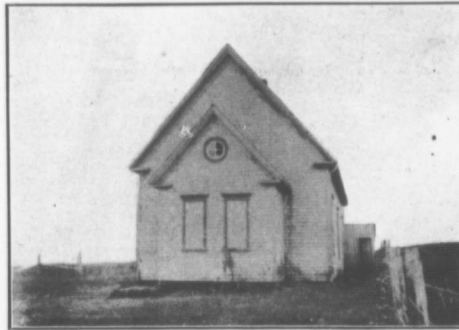
Impressions made upon the young mind are lasting. This is especially the case in school life. Psychologists agree that, until about twelve years old, boys are entirely taken up with their own interests and have not begun to

of their wives attended public school only. Their education, therefore, must have been completed at an early age. Thus the impression created by their public school surroundings must be indelibly written upon their minds and remain there during life. Every consideration, civic and individual, renders it essential, therefore, that school conditions be made agreeable and that the teacher be suitable to the work. Greater attention must be paid to making our schools attractive, to bring the scholars to



Cut No. 153

Initiative and a little effort would make this school attractive.



Cut No. 154

Originally a good school building, but neglect is now its principal feature.

recognize the need of group efforts. It is, therefore, in the early age that the child forms his individual opinion of the school and teacher. In later life his interests become more associated with his school fellows, and this memory offsets any deleterious effect which an unattractive school may have caused.

According to a recent survey of educational conditions in the county of Dundas, Ont., by the Commission of Conservation, 98 per cent of 400 farmers and 92 per cent

them, and make life pleasant for them while there. We are continually urging greater and higher educational facilities for our children, but are we making the best use of existing opportunities? A prime requisite to this end is initiative on the part of the teacher. In his or her hands much needed improvement can be made in building and grounds. Any expense entailed can readily be secured, if not by direct collection from the parents, through the medium of

## Smut in Grains

Its Presence Means Loss of Millions of Dollars to Canadian Farmers

One way to increase production on Canadian farms is to prevent the loss caused annually by smut in cereal grain. An average loss from smut of one per cent of the crop means a loss of millions of dollars to the farmers of Canada. Losses have frequently run from 10 to 40 per cent on individual farms.

Agricultural surveys conducted by the Commission of Conservation have shown that a very small percentage of the farmers in the five eastern provinces treat their seed grain for smut, while among farmers in the prairie provinces the practice is general. It pays the western farmer to treat his seed and it will also pay the eastern farmer.

At a farmers' meeting recently held in Western Ontario, a farmer stated that he had purchased seed wheat which had little "bunt" or stinking smut on it, but thought it was not worth while treating it. As a result he had badly smutted crop, causing a decreased yield and disagreeable threshing, and he was docked 25 cents per bushel when he marketed it.

The formalin treatment of stinking smut of wheat and seed of oats is effective and easily applied. The formalin is mixed with water at the rate of one pound of 45 gallons of water, and the grain is either immersed in the solution or sprinkled with it until every kernel is thoroughly wet. The grain should then be placed in pile and covered with sacks or blankets for several hours, or overnight. It should then be dried sufficiently to run through a seeder. Care must be taken to prevent the treated grain from coming into contact with sacks or blankets or floors upon which the grain may be smut spores.

When the treatment has been properly performed, treated seed will practically always give better yields than untreated seed. Try for yourself with your seed in 1917.—F.C.N.

some form of entertainment and it is not hard to arouse the enthusiasm of the pupils in such undertakings.

The two schools shown here are typical of many. What there is of selections of his school days could they carry through life from natural surroundings?

In each case, however, the Government the nucleus of a good school. Without of a progressive teacher, the necessary national improvement to the surroundings, if it could be made at minimum expense and conditions created without pat would provide pleasant moments throughout the pupil's later life of United