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plot of ground, possibly 15 rods square.

To the further side the outbuilding

of late years the government has added

a flag staff, which is, indeed a blessing, for now one can distinguish between

a farmer's barn and the district school

house. The ratepayers generally plow a firebreak around the school, which is

an admirable place for a growth of

tumbling mustard, fire weed and lamb's

quarters. The break is generally plowed once in four or five years to give the

weeds a fresh start. The yard is

covered with straw, rubbish, etc. The

sod grows as much weeds as grass, or

the whole growth may be bushy plants neither useful nor ornamental. Some-

times the entire yard is covered with

wolf willow, or again half the yard

is a slough with a bunch or two of

poplar in it. Poplars are better than

nothing, but generally there is nothing

for a bird to alight in, let alone nest.

Inside the school is seldom found a

potted plant, and on summer days it

is hot and stuffy inside and suffocating

without, except on the north side

where the boys have the grass all kicked

away to make a good place to play mar-

On many school grounds there is no

place to play games. There is not room;

and, besides, the ground is generally too

rough and uneven to permit of a good

game, even if there were room. This is

the kind of schools our boys and girls

are going to. It is merely a mechanical

operation on the part of the pupil, and under those conditions he cannot

learn. He is out of harmony with

things; not because of any lack in him-

self, but because of no harmonious sur-

* Not one pupil in fifty, between the ages of fifteen and eighteen, attends

school because of love for reading,

writing and arithmetic. The interest in the school is due to the association of like persons, the games they play, etc. The secret of a good game

is that it must excite competition,

require skill and teach a pupil to exercise resourcefulness, strategy and determination. If these games are lacking, either because of insufficient number of pupils or space, the pupil will

only go to school as long as he is compelled to, and such attendance is not in the best interests of the pupil. This is the situation in the province in near-

ly every country school. A large num-

ber of the older boys and girls dislike

school ground. It is the most desolated place in the country-no trees, no bushes, no flowers, no nothing. What

a difference it would make if there was a

nice, cool, shady place where the noon

lunch could be eaten, or to go for a while at recess. If there was a plant

to study for the first opening bud; a

flowering bush, where one could watch

the bees humming about; if one could

come, the seed form, and note how the seeds were diffused; if all these were

there, there would be no need for compulsory education. I believe it would

be cheaper to make the grounds so attractive that the children would not stay away than it would to force a child to go to a school where the sur-

roundings are so bare and comfortless. Besides, the child would get more good

The character of the pupil can be made strong by associating him with

trees and flowers. Plant into the new scholar that which will grow into love

women; but the teacher cannot in-

stil into the pupil a love for such if they are several miles away. The

here " is far more effective than " look there." The habit of seeing nature,

the wonder of it, the beauty, the grandeur must grow in a child, so that

when he is a man it is part of his life.

Human nature is grown, and the pro-

duce is the direct result of the nourishment supplied. If you would have a

child pure in thought, word and deed,

feed him on such, teach him to see

see the flowers

Everyone who

watch the leaves unfold.

out of it ten times over.

There is no attractiveness about the

roundings.

going to school.

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