

ticularly fortunate in this respect in Cleveland, as the public school buildings in every instance had sufficient property beyond the building line to allow the escape to be placed eight (8) feet from the building. In every other respect the specifications adopted by the State are identical with those compiled at the instance of this Department and the Board of Education of this City.

"While I strongly advocate the erection of an adequate number of fire-escapes on every non-fireproof school building, I do not believe that a fire-escape or a number of fire-escapes should be expected to properly safeguard the pupils in the building. It is my opinion that all school buildings more than one (1) story in height should be constructed throughout of fireproof material; this requirement is made, both in our city ordinances and in the statutes of this State, so that we now design school buildings to be perfectly safe from fire from ordinary causes, and compel erection of the escape described in the enclosed specifications on all non-fireproof school buildings more than (1) story in height."

Yours very truly,

WM. S. LOUGEE,
Inspector of Buildings.

Another letter, received from the Dayton branch of the Ohio Inspection Bureau, which will interest you, reads as follows:

"As to construction of fire escapes, this matter is entirely in the hands of the State Shop Inspector, Columbus, Ohio. A letter addressed to him would probably bring you desired information. Our state law requires the Shop Inspector to make inspections of shops, factories, schoolhouses and other buildings, and see that the state law is complied with regarding fire escapes and other requirements. Experience has shown that in this and other states the matter of fire escapes on school houses and other buildings, is of vital importance, so much so that stringent laws have been passed requiring them, and we think it appeals to the reason of every man, that some method of escape is imperative in buildings where public gatherings are common on upper floors. The possibility of fires and panics is always present. The means of escape should be equally in evidence and it is the height of criminal negligence to wait for some awful calamity to demonstrate the above fact. This state, as well as others, has been guilty of just that kind of negligence, and it took the loss of nearly 200 innocent children's lives, in one single instance, to arouse the people to a sense of duty. The fire escape should be such not only in name but in fact. Not allowed to be constructed merely to comply with the law, but to serve as a real avenue of safety and not another fire trap in itself."

Yours truly,

A. W. FOSTER,
Inspector.

Still another letter was received from Toledo, Ohio, which demonstrates that this city has also taken advantage of Collinwood's awful lesson:

"We demand that all buildings used for school purposes, that are more than six feet from the grade line, must have fire escapes. The inspection of school buildings in this state is very rigid. The state department will no doubt furnish you with copy of state law on school building protection.

"Trusting this will be the information desired, we are,

Yours truly,

JOSEPH McMAHON,
Chief Inspector.

You undoubtedly know that the authorities of New York city do not concur with you in your views, as is to be inferred from the following letter:

"In reply to your inquiry, relative to fire escapes on school buildings, I would say that we require regular stairs with eight-inch risers and eight-and-one-half-inch treads."

Yours truly,

EDS. S. MURPHY,
Superintendent of Buildings.

The fire marshal of Troy, N.Y., takes a sane view of the proper use of fire-escapes and the manner in which the fire drill should be practised, as is evidenced by the following letter:

"I have your communication, and in reply I will quote my suggestions as given in my report of an inspection of the schools of this City in 1908, to the Board of Education of this City, which is as follows:—

"Every school building over two stories in height should have fire escapes erected on same and these fire escapes should have balconies at least five feet wide with suitable railings and a wide stairway with easy steps and risers leading from same, and the said balconies should extend the entire length or width of the buildings, and I believe that these fire escapes should be used by the pupils in their fire drills, so that they might get accustomed to the use of them."

Very respectfully yours,

CHARLES ROTH,
Fire Marshal.

"P.S.—I will further state that since the above report, all the school buildings in the city, where considered necessary, have been equipped as above suggested."

You will note from the following letter that Rochester, N.Y., takes advantage of every possible precaution in the erection and equipment of its schools; all schools have outside iron stairs protected with wire netting; they have fire drills once a week and no buildings are erected of over two stories of non-fireproof construction. Why should Toronto fail to protect its children to the same extent as Rochester?

Dear Sir:—

"Our building code does not allow school buildings to be erected more than two stories in height, unless of fire proof construction. We have iron stair fire escapes on all our school buildings, and for safety, have said fire escapes enclosed in wire netting. The principals of all schools have a fire drill at least once a week, which is an excellent practice, as it prevents a panic in case of fire. Fire escapes should be upon all school buildings, and the fire drill practised for the safety of the pupils."

Respectfully yours,

HERBERT W. PIERCE,
Assistant Fire Marshal.

The inspector of buildings of Minneapolis believes schools should not be more than two stories in height and that first floor should be of fireproof construction:

Dear Sir:—

"Our present ordinance gives me authority to demand fire escapes on all buildings three stories or more in height. In regard to the necessity for fire-escapes on school buildings, I should say that it would depend entirely on the height of the building, the number and width of stairways, the condition and location of the heating plant and the type of construction of the buildings.

"In my opinion, such buildings should be limited in height, if possible, to two stories. The first floor, at least, should be constructed of fireproof materials, and the building provided with wide, easy stairways in sufficient numbers."

Yours truly,

JAS. G. HOUGHTON,
Inspector of Buildings.

Salt Lake City has both fire-escapes and fire drills. The spiral escape referred to in the following letter is of the same type as is used in Winnipeg:

"In addition to fire escapes described in Section 100 of our building code, our Board of Education are using to a more or less degree the spiral fire escape, which you probably have knowledge of, being constructed circular in form, or iron, with a spiral incline plane inside. None of these have ever been used during a fire and panic, but the school teachers and principals of our schools give a practice drill with their scholars occasionally, and seem to think they are perfectly satisfactory. Whether they would be able to handle the scholars during the excitement of fire as successfully as they do during the drill, is yet to be proven."

Salt Lake City, Utah.

A. B. HIRTH,
Inspector of Buildings.