

school, in order to provide a few good black and white or colored prints to be framed, and a large number of small prints for study and comparison and the enjoyment which a little knowledge of art would make possible.

The Department of Education will fill commissions of any school district to purchase selected pictures or casts or it will make a selection within a given sum. The Department of Architecture of the University of Manitoba will gladly give any advice or assistance, as it is now doing in some cases, in regard to any question on this subject.

Of the school building itself I should say that probably a great improvement is imminent. There is need for it, as both in planning and appearance our schools leave much to be desired. They should, of course, be well arranged and lighted and heated, but as public buildings they should also be pleasing in appearance. Being well designed by competent architects, they should not be mere boxes, but should have an architectural grace expressive of their character of halls of learning, which grace will have its influence on the minds and characters of the pupils. A proper pride in a building is a desirable community asset. Unless there is a town hall for community purposes a large function of the school building should be its use for meetings and clubs and entertainments and it should be planned with this in view. The community club and spirit are just beginning to take hold of rural life and the movement, now that it is started, will soon gain headway. In this new phase of activity the school may well play an important role, ministering to the people in ways of education, recreation, and all wholesome pleasures, such as classes, lectures, debates, games, parties, suppers and meetings to discuss patriotic and civic affairs.

The school grounds are equally important and useful as a town feature and should I think, be of sufficient size and be so planned that they may serve a larger purpose than merely as school playgrounds. The ideal is a tract of 8 to 12 acres, accessible to the town

centre, but not so near as to impair its use as a park, partly wooded and somewhat rolling, joining on to an extensive wooded region beyond. Near the side toward the town the school would be situated, with a pleasant approach lined with trees. Around it would be the playgrounds and the pupils' gardens. Farther off there would be a playfield large enough for football, cricket and baseball, with smaller areas for tennis, bowling and other games more or less separated and shaded. The rest of the tract would be laid out with the necessary roads for passing about or through, straight or curved; and planted with trees and shrubs, according to a carefully devised plan. Advantage would be taken of natural features and the conditions of the site to make the most attractive arrangement of open spaces and wooded spots for various uses.

This combination of school grounds, town park and community recreation grounds, if made good use of, would offer a setting for that life which the community club is created to foster, a life in which all elements of the town might join for mutual understanding and welfare and greater enjoyment. It has been my good fortune to be asked to plan several such parks and I have had great satisfaction in laying them out to afford as many of the practical features mentioned as possible, and to make them attractive. In one of these—that at Dominion City, Man., about half the site was wooded, with a ravine running along near one edge, giving leafy nooks and shaded paths. By a small amount of cutting out and planting I was able to make a fine level ball-field surrounded by woods curving about it, except on the side toward the school, with pleasant glimpses of wooded slopes beyond and to arrange places for tennis courts and a bowling green, and a sylvan enclosed oval for plays or pageants. The playgrounds for winter use were close to the school. Natural paths wound off through the woods to the country beyond. The topography and bushy character of the site led to a very informal arrangement. Other conditions might call for formality, with