

DR. BARNARDO'S INDUSTRIAL FARM.



PLEASANT feature at the Home during the month has been a short visit from Mr. E. A. Struthers, under whose direction and skillful management Dr. Barnardo's Industrial Farm at Russell, Man., has developed into its present high state of efficiency, the institution having a far-famed reputation for the excellence of the products of its multifarious departments, and as a training school which has turned out some of the most progressive and able young farmers in Manitoba. Mr. Struthers' long connection with the North-West, dating from 1872, and his thorough knowledge of the requirements and advantages of that country made him pre-eminently the man to undertake the task confided to him by Dr. Barnardo. We determined to turn Mr. Struthers' visit to the advantage of the readers of UPS AND DOWNS, and gather from that gentleman as complete an account as possible of the work on the Industrial Farm; the methods adopted; results so far obtained, as well as other information likely to be useful to our friends. Mr. Struthers also possesses a rich fund of anecdote pertaining to the quaint and picturesque individuality of those with whom he came in contact in the early days of his acquaintance with Manitoba. We are not without hope of, at some future time, inducing Mr. Struthers to contribute some reminiscences of the pre-railway days in Manitoba to the columns of UPS AND DOWNS, and we are sure these would prove a source of much interest and pleasure as well as of instruction to our readers. In the meantime we feel we have drawn not a little on his good nature in securing from him the following information relating to the Industrial Farm.

It was on Sunday, April 15th, 1888, that Mr. Struthers arrived at Russell, Manitoba, with a party of fifty great Labour House youths, who had only a week before finished a very pleasant voyage to Halifax, by the old Allan Line steamer "Polynesian," and took possession of the fine new home building erected during the winter of 1887-8. It was, no doubt, a remarkable transition for these young men, suddenly transplanted from the crowded streets and alleys of old London—where Nature appeared even to begrudge them the air they breathed, certainly refusing to furnish it pure and unadulterated—to the broad estate of nearly 10,000 acres acquired by the Director; and it is gratifying to know that nearly all the lads of this pioneer party are still in the country, and doing generally well, an object lesson as to the power for good of pure air, water, and clean surroundings.

The Farm is situated three-and-a-half-miles from Russell, a village of 400 inhabitants located at the terminus of the Russell branch of the Manitoba and North-West Railway, and two hundred and twenty-two miles north-west of Winnipeg, the capital of the Province. The Assiniboine river runs through the western portion of the property, and lakes and ponds are interspersed with clumps of small poplar and willow over the greater part of the estate; deep ravines lead down from the prairie level near the home buildings to the Assiniboine valley, all quite heavily wooded, making up a landscape beautiful in itself, and difficult to counter-part in any district of the great West.

The soil of this part of the Province is wonderfully fertile, and may be described generally as a sandy loam, in depth from 15 to 20 inches, resting on a clay sub-soil, and is particularly well adapted to the growth of all kinds of grain. Water is found in abundance in the rivers and ponds, and can also be secured in wells by digging a depth of from 30 to 40 feet, always of excellent quality. Fuel, naturally a great desideratum, is cut and hauled from the

ravines above mentioned, by the lads. The uplands offer the best of pasturage in summer, and the herbage is of such quality that cows fed on these rolling prairies and hills give milk of phenomenal richness and fine flavor.

The various buildings consist of a large and imposing frame building capable of housing 100 lads, with rooms for officers connected with the work, offices from which the general administration is carried on, stores, laundry, bathrooms, hospital and kitchen; commodious cottage for the manager, and another of smaller size for the farm superintendent; a large barn and stable with accommodation for 45 cows, two stables for horses with a roothouse underneath, 20x90 feet, capable of holding 10,000 bushels of roots; a feeding shed 22x160 for the shelter of horned cattle and sheep, and two piggeries accommodating 300 hogs. These buildings are well supplied with water, which is pumped to the surface by windmills. A large garden of some 20 acres



*Yours sincerely,
E. A. Struthers*

is kept under cultivation, and on this ground there has been built a small hothouse.

A very important building not enumerated above is the creamery, the work in which has been carried on since 1880 with great satisfaction, Dr. Barnardo's creamery butter being well known to the trade from Victoria to Toronto. A great deal of pains has been taken to make this special industry a success, and Dr. Barnardo wisely authorized the purchase of the best and most modern appliances for use in the work. The building is, with icehouse, 36x65 feet, has cement lined floors and walls, and is generally well designed for the purposes for which it is intended. The machinery consists of a six horse horizontal engine built by the Waterous Co., a ten horse power boiler by the same Company. A line shaft from one end of the building to the other conveys the necessary power for working the separators, churns and butter worker. Here also is a small circular

saw with which is prepared for consumption all the wood for the different buildings on the estate.

In the summer season waggons are sent through a district of some 200 square miles collecting milk and cream from the farmers for manufacture into butter. A trained and certificated butter-maker is kept in the constant employ of the Farm and, as stated above, the quality of the goods made is exceptionally fine, Dr. Barnardo's name appearing among the exhibitors at the great Columbian exhibition, Chicago, 1893, who were awarded gold medals for creamery butter.

Up to date 701 lads and young men have been brought from England and enrolled upon the books of the Manitoba Farm, and, exclusive of the forty-three lads at present in residence, these have been found situations with farmers, receiving as remuneration for their services wages ranging from \$5.00 to \$15.00 per month.

Many have since become comfortably established on farms of their own and are doing well for themselves and the country, an important feature of the industrial farm scheme being that of assisting deserving employees in starting on the adjoining lands on their own account, and the results so far have been eminently satisfactory.

The lads drafted for the Manitoba Farm are sent out from England under agreement to work at a fair rate of wages upon the estate for one year, but as it is sometimes found advisable in the best interest of a lad to place him out before the expiration of his arranged year of service, the average term of apprenticeship is about eight months, and a sharp lad, during even the shortest period of training can, if he like, become fairly proficient and prove of great assistance in the general choring and ordinary farm work of the homesteads, on which situations are procured, for indeed the lads are kept awake and moving while undergoing their training; "go" is the order from the first bugle at five o'clock a. m. when all are turned out to prepare for breakfast, till six o'clock at night, excepting a one and one-half hour's respite at noon.

A short service of prayer is conducted twice during the day, by the house-master in the morning, and by the manager just previous to retiring for the night; and on Sunday a full and excellently conducted service is presided over by a clergyman from the village of Russell, who also has classes for Bible study during the week.

A very creditable library is maintained at the Home through the efforts of the staff, assisted by four prominent business men of Winnipeg.

Concerts and simple dramatic entertainments are often prepared by the lads to which the surrounding neighbors are invited, and thus the long winter evenings are passed in a morally healthy, and at the same time pleasant atmosphere; while during three summers past a Barnardo cricket team has several times taken a creditable place in the local fields.

The health report from the Manitoba Farm speaks volumes in favour of the climate of the Canadian North-west, for during the eight years' existence of the Institution but three deaths have occurred in its hospital, and none of these cases could be ascribed to disease germs acquired in the country.

Although the area is so large, aggregating nearly 10,000 acres, it is found wise to cultivate only an area which the farm hands are capable of keeping under perfect cultivation, consequently a great part is utilized as pasture land and a large herd of horned cattle, numbering nearly 250, and a flock of some 300 sheep are kept on the farm. The industry of pig raising has proved very profitable, and car-load shipments of pork from Dr. Barnardo's Industrial Farm often leave Russell station to find their way to the large markets of older countries.