

day or for some short length of time, and through their own mismanagement may now and again be without employment; but in no case is there a young man within our knowledge who is ready and willing to work but unable to obtain it, and at a rate of wages that, considering the character of the work and that board and lodging are always included, is exceedingly liberal. Our lads are seldom afraid of opening their mouths on the question of wages, and they soon learn to know the value of their services and how to demand it, and with most of them a farmer would have to get up early in the morning to get much the best of them in a bargain for wages.



A Striking Contrast. ONE cannot, indeed, often help contrasting the absolute independence of the position of

these young fellows, able to pick and choose their situations and taking their own time in the process, always secure of comfortable board and lodging and treated by their employers on terms of perfect equality, with that of the heart-sickening, relentless struggle for work that falls to the lot of so many at home; the filing up of long strings of men to wait for weary hours in the hope of an hour or two's wretchedly paid employment; the fruitless quest for situations, however humble and ill-remunerated; the curt refusals; the constant disappointments and the ever-increasing pressure of want and poverty; and the contrast does indeed awaken feelings of heart-felt thankfulness for the number of those who have been lifted out of the struggle and have now such brighter prospects before them.



Work and Overwork

THESE are the two sides of the picture, and one which we have no wish to disguise. The Canadian farmers are not the men to seek after our lads and lodge, and feed, and clothe, and

pay them dollars either from motives of philanthropy or for the purpose of having them as ornaments about their premises. Occasionally, indeed, an individual comes forward with an application for a strong, useful boy of twelve or fifteen to "adopt," to "treat him as his own," send him to Sabbath school on Sundays, etc., and displaying the most virtuous disgust when we break in upon these benevolent proposals with the suggestion that the strong, useful boy should be able to earn wages, and that "adoption" is a term that requires explanation; but negotiations with this sort of gentry usually end in our declining their applications, and we prefer to do business on a business basis and to recognize the fact that our boys have come to Canada to earn their living and make money, and that the people who offer them homes and engage their services from us expect them to earn what they receive. We endeavour to instil into the minds of all our young immigrants that in Canada they must learn to be useful and to work hard if they are to make their way in the country, and that there is no room here for the idle and shiftless. Now "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and it would be a serious charge against the work of immigration and a hardship and wrong to our boys if in any appreciable number of cases they were overworked or their lives spent in drudgery and toil beyond their years and strength. Happily, we can state, without fear of contradiction, that such a charge would be an unfounded one, and emphatically disproved by the health and appearance of our lads, and their almost universal contentment with their lot. One has only to notice the growth and physical development of almost all our boys, to feel satisfied that there is nothing unfavourable in their lives and surroundings. They thrive prodigiously under the conditions in which they are placed, and when we see lads whom we took leave of as thin, pale, looking "stopping" to