

and depraved character, or unsound in mind or body—he would have had no countenance from the Conservative Government, but they have appreciated the fact that his work is of the highest importance and benefit to the Dominion, and their policy towards us has been at once generous and statesmanlike.

* *

How we should fare under a change of Government we have no means of knowing. We read the other day in a paper that professes to be an influential organ of the Liberal party,—and that at the same time never loses an opportunity of making an attack upon Dr. Barnardo and his boys—that “when the Liberals attain to power they will prohibit the traffic, root and branch.” By the “traffic” is meant the affording to our boys and girls a chance of starting themselves in life and earning a decent, honest, independent livelihood, in a country where there is ample room for them all, and where there is a large and growing demand for their labour. If the statement is true—which we utterly refuse to believe that it is—it means that in deference to the clamour of a small section of the community, composed chiefly of men who have comparatively little stake in the country and who regard public questions from the narrowest standard of partisanship, thousands of young people of deserving character and possessing all the qualifications for useful citizenship, shall be shut out from promising careers; and that, under the ban of pauperism, they shall be excluded from an opportunity of raising themselves in the world by their own honest efforts. We refuse to believe that any party commanding the confidence of the majority of the Canadian people would commit or even contemplate such a wrong, or would be guilty of the political folly of driving away from the Dominion a class of people whose records prove them to be such as the country most needs for its successful development.

* *

As regards the public questions of the day upon which the country will have to pronounce its verdict, they constitute a field of discussion which it is hardly prudent for us to enter. I hope, however, I may be pardoned for saying that personally, and looking at the political situation apart entirely from Dr. Barnardo's work and the interests of our boys, I cannot help feeling my sympathies drawn to the party which has controlled the destinies of Canada for the past eighteen years. I believe Sir Charles Tupper to be a loyal, able and sagacious statesman. He has an intimate knowledge and ripe experience of Canadian affairs, and is in closest touch with the many and diversified interests and aspirations of the various sections of the community. Furthermore, he is a man of undoubted loyalty to the Crown and to the British connection, and with Sir Charles Tupper directing the policy of the country there is not only little fear of any weakening of the ties that bind Canada to the Mother Country, but the fullest guarantee that Canada will look for and receive her share in the “heritage of empire.” He has in his Cabinet a number of gifted men of tried administrative ability, and at whose hands we may safely look for good government and public honesty. I confess I should be ready to leave the settlement of the vexed Manitoba School Question in the hands of Sir Charles Tupper and his colleagues, believing them to be more likely than any other party to find a means of reconciling the, at present, clashing claims of Federal and Provincial authorities and the deeper and more bitter antagonism of the Protestant and Roman Catholic interests. It seems clear that the rights of the minorities, whether those of the

Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba or of the Protestant minority in Quebec, which they have enjoyed since Federation, and which have been declared to be theirs by the decision of the highest legal tribunal in the Empire, must be secured to them at all costs. How to secure the minority in Manitoba in the enjoyment of these rights and avoid rousing, or rather how to allay, the storm of fanatical and sectarian strife, is a problem for Canadian statesmanship which the present Government is, in my opinion, more likely to solve successfully than any other. Where I find it more difficult to follow Sir Charles Tupper is in the protective policy with which his party is so closely identified. Free trade, the removal of all barriers and restrictions between either individuals or nations, leaving to every man the right to spend his money in the cheapest market or any market he likes, seems to me the soundest and only legitimate policy for any country. A high protective tariff undoubtedly fosters manufacturing interests, and will probably build up, as it has done in the United States, a few colossal fortunes; but it means wealth at the expense of the commonwealth; and free trade, the free trade of Cobden and John Bright, such as Great Britain has grown rich and prosperous under, seems to me to promise the greatest good to the greatest number. Canada at present does not seem to think so, and it is not likely that under either party will there be much more than a “tinkering” with the tariff, which only means worrying and disturbing existing industries; but I have faith enough in the great principle of free trade to believe that many of our boys will live to see it adopted as the policy of the Dominion and of the great Republic on her borders.

* *

From free trade to bicycles is rather a far cry, but we have heard so much of them during the past month that Echoes of the Month would be incomplete without some mention of “the wheel.” We are afraid to hazard a guess as to the number of letters we have received on the subject or how many hundreds of dollars have been paid away by our boys in the purchase of wheels during the past month, but we know they have made some tremendous inroads into bank accounts, and “still they come.” We suppose they afford an immense amount of enjoyment, and it would perhaps seem ill-natured to give our candid opinion on these purchases, but we do beg our boys who have got a little money saved up as the fruit of months or years of hard work, to think once and again before they spend a big pile of dollars in one of these machines. It is a case of “lightly go” in these transactions, but there has been no “lightly come” before it, and our advice to boys about to buy bicycles, if not the same as Punch's to those about to marry, is at any rate to ponder well whether seventy-five or a hundred dollars in the bank, gaining interest and accumulating for use in the future, is not better worth having than a “Comet” or a “Wanderer” or a “Columbia,” or any other popular brand.

* *

Will our friends bear in mind that we have still a few bright little lads in the Home between 11 and 13 years of age for whom we are anxious to secure good places, and further, that during the month of July we expect to receive another large detachment of boys from the English Homes, ranging in age from 10 to 17? We are open to receive applications, and shall be glad to have the help of our boys in making known to any farmers in their localities, who are likely to need boys, that this supply will be forthcoming.

Alfred B. Owen

Manitoba Farm Notes

The month of May has been a busy period on the farm, and the gangs of fresh young labourers under their different foremen, among whom we may mention the veterans, George Fisher, Henry Pettitt, John Brown, Walter Pearson, and Joseph Gartlan, have been experiencing a great diversity of employment from spreading fertilizers on the fields, cleaning up the winter collection of debris, to the more interesting work of ploughing, harrowing and putting in the grain with the press drills. A few of the Scotsman lads have taken to the ploughing very kindly, but naturally the greater part of this work has devolved upon a few old hands who have established a record for putting in an honest day's work and doing it well. Woodward, Ruddick, Mercer, and Howard are honoured by belonging to this class, and are setting an example to the new-comers which they will do well to follow.

* *

The well-known cream collecting wagon was started out on its round through the Minniska country on the 14th of the month, and by the first of June the creamery will be under full way. William Walton, the well-known clerk and storekeeper at the farm, who came to Canada from Newcastle in 1891, has charge of the important work of collecting cream, and is so far pleasing the patrons and the creamery superintendent as well.

The live stock department is flourishing; nearly 100 fine, strong, black-faced lambs are frisking about on the rich green sward behind their anxious mothers; a carload of excellent white pigs left the farm on the 18th by special stock train for the Winnipeg Packing House, and Gilbert Bishop may well be proud of the condition of his great herd of Shorthorn cows and the rollicking band of calves, all hand fed, leaving the sheds each morning for the great prairie pasture. While on the live stock question I wonder do all the “old timers,” those who came and lived in the country during the days of the buffalo, when looking over the fine herds of domestic cattle, so rapidly increasing in this part of the Dominion, contrast, like the writer, the systems in vogue in those days in handling the indigenous herds, with the practices of civilization now in force; and any person sceptical as to the future of the live stock interest in the great Canadian West, should either look back or read up the statistics as to the thousands upon thousands of those valuable animals which the grasses of the western plains sustained in the years gone by, in spite of the almost constant attacks made upon them by the Indians and wild beasts of the river valleys and hills. The buffalo or bison is supposed at one time to have had as a pasture lot the greater part of the United States and about one-quarter of what is now the Dominion of Canada; in the United States it is said not to have roamed the country east of the Hudson River, nor east of Lake Champlain; old explorers, however, report having seen herds as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

As it is only of the old buffalo ranges of Canada that the writer has any personal knowledge, we will begin by stating on the authority of old hunters, that Great Slave Lake was about as far north as the buffalo ever roamed, while to the south, with an utter disregard for International boundaries or barriers of any kind which the few remaining animals of the species show to this day, great herds are said to have regularly and systematically changed their feeding-grounds from the Little Souris district down into the far south of what is now known