

our commodious quarters on the *Scotsman*. We were quite at home on the *Scotsman*, and it would have been impossible for the party to have been more comfortably provided for. The last leave-takings had to be cut very short, and we were soon steaming down the Mersey, with fair wind, bright sunshine and smooth water. We were fortunate enough to take this weather with us for almost the whole way across the Atlantic, with the exception of a brief interval of fog at the approach to the Straits of Belle Isle and afterwards in the River, between Rimouski and Quebec.

The passage throughout was a delightful one, and after the first two days everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Of course Neptune exacted his usual tribute, and all the girls and most of the boys thought for a few hours that they were going to die, and probably considered that death would be a blessed release from their sufferings. Our Sunday plum pudding, and the oranges and toffee after dinner were a marvellous restorative, and before we were far on our way we were as jolly a party as any could wish to see.

The voyage passed without any very stirring or exciting events. We preserved, thank God, a perfectly clean bill of health during the whole journey, and had scarcely occasion to ask if there was a doctor or medicine chest on board. The *Scotsman* is an immense ship, with deck space enough for five times our number, and there was any amount of play room for both girls and boys. Of course between the two there were bounds set, which it was a high crime and misdemeanour to trespass upon, but however strong might have been the attractions, we are glad to say that both parties accepted the inevitable and no one gave us the least trouble. "Very good," is our mark for the conduct and behaviour of the entire party; and the other passengers, of whom we had a considerable number on board, including a good many representative people, were enthusiastic in their praises of the good order and discipline maintained, and the absence of any rude or disorderly behaviour.

On Sunday we had the usual little service with girls, smaller boys and Labour House youths respectively. Having had to do duty as Chaplain at these services, I must not attempt to give any description of them here. I may say that I wish every preacher had as attentive an audience as I had at each of the services I conducted that day.

Leopold House boys will be interested in hearing that Mr. Gowen accompanied the party, being sent for the fourth time as my assistant in charge. Mr. Gowen is an "old salt" and all at home on board ship, and is, besides, one of the most faithful, indefatigable and cheerful of workers. With Mrs. Brown among the girls and Mr. Gowen among the boys, the party was well officered, and there was no fear of any lack of vigilance either by day or by night. Nor must we forget to mention our tried and trusty friend Steward Thomas Nuttall, better known to most of us as "Tom." For a long while past Tom has been told off to accompany our parties and has followed us from one ship to another, and from the Allan to the Dominion Line. Tom's duties are none of the most savoury during the first day or two of the voyage; and are of the most laborious during the latter end when appetites seem as if they would never be assuaged, and huge "kids" of meat and potatoes and mighty stacks of bread disappear as by magic. But Tom never murmurs, and whenever the time comes, as for his sake we hope it soon will, when promotion from the

ranks will prevent our taking him, we shall have lost the services of a most faithful, efficient, industrious person.

The hottest weather of the season seemed to have been keeping itself in reserve for our landing at Quebec, and the railway journey with the mercury in the nineties was a very trying experience. Like most other ills in the world, however, it came to an end at length, and after leaving the girls at Peterboro, at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, we reached Toronto at noon. For the rest of the day we "boiled," sleeping or working, and the shady corners of the yard were in great requisition. Of course, we refer to the juniors only; as for the staff there was work enough and to spare to feed the hungry, and to get all things in order for the exodus in the morning. On Monday each of the morning trains from Toronto carried its quota of young passengers, and we were able to congratulate ourselves on having made a considerable clearance. Still, there were a good many left, the demand being unfortunately almost entirely for big boys, and the supply chiefly small boys of 12 or 13 years of age. Even now, we are a long way from being out of stock, and we hope our friends won't forget the fact that we have boys to provide for if they hear of any one wanting a boy of any age under 13 or 14 and able to give such a boy a good comfortable home and the right sort of training.

Of course, there was an immense budget of letters and reports waiting for me on my arrival, some that were very pleasant to receive and some that were very much the reverse, but I am thankful to say that the great majority of the reports of the doings of our boys during the period of my absence in England was in the highest degree satisfactory and encouraging. Equally so is the fact that we have had scarcely any boys returned to us from situations. This is very remarkable considering the fact that every employer has the fullest possible privilege of returning to the Home any boy who is not doing well. We will never attempt to tie any man to a bad bargain if a boy should prove himself to be such, but in spite of this we have hardly had a return during all the weeks I have been away, and even those who are not doing as well as we could desire are keeping their situations and at any rate supporting themselves and earning a decent living.

We repeat our invitation to our old boys to pay us a visit at the Home upon any day during the second week of the Toronto Exhibition, from the 7th to the 11th. Everyone will be welcome, and we hope made to feel at home, and we are looking forward to having as pleasant and successful a gathering as we have had on the same occasion for several years past.

Alfred B. Owen

MANITOBA FARM NOTES.



AFFAIRS at the Farm have gone on in a very satisfactory manner since our last report, although the haying has been very much interfered with through the fall of unusual quantities of rain, which has had the effect of filling the lower meadows with water, and has also made it much more difficult to cure the crop when cut. Hail storms have made sad havoc in some parts of the Province; the Russell district has, however, fortunately escaped, and residents are consequently very thankful.

The demand for farm labourers would appear to be far in excess of the supply, and we should say that any of the "Barnardo brethren" in Ontario who are free to accept fresh engagements and who are capable of performing a good day's work in the harvest field, might do well to join one of the low-rate harvest excursions now being arranged by the railway companies. In connection with the labour market, it should be a source of gratification to our far-seeing Director that the applications for lads and young men from the Farm have poured in through the mails in such numbers that the management have been driven to their wits' ends to arrange for supplying the would-be employers; and the districts into which our helpers have been sent, may be described by beginning with Emerson in the east and ending with Edmonton in the far west.

Among public works now under way in the Province, may be mentioned as one of great interest to all our young men who are looking for suitable locations in the way of homesteads, the Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Company, which begins at Gladstone, on the Manitoba and North Western Railway line, and



GEORGE FISHER.

runs north westerly into the much-praised Dauphin Lake country. This railway will undoubtedly prove a great boon to the people already settled on the rich lands of this district, and the fact that the much required outlet for the produce of all kinds now grown in abundance, is now fairly on its way to completion, will encourage a rapid settlement of the lands which are held partly by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for sale on the most reasonable terms and by the Dominion Government for homesteading under the usual regulations. The writer hopes to be able to make a careful personal inspection of this Dauphin district before the close of the year; and, after the visit, will not only write for UPS AND DOWNS a description of the territory, but will be pleased to furnish all the information in his possession relating to the location of free-grant lands and the chances for securing desirable selections, to any of our young men thinking of settling down on their own account.

While on the subject of settling as relates to our people, we have great pleasure in announcing that another of our young men has had the courage to strike out on his own land, purchasing on the first of the month 160 acres from Dr. Barnardo's Industrial Farm, and paying down the sum of five hundred dollars all