

"We are losing to a great extent that bold peasantry which should be the country's pride, while retaining the comparatively feeble and unintellectual proletariat which is crowding into the slums of the large towns. It is not proposed to dump on the Dominion the dregs of our child life. There must be careful selection. We shall have to retain and deal with as best we can those children who are mentally defective or morally depraved, or charged with disease. There are large numbers of children in London who only want an opportunity to rise out of their reduced circumstances to eliminate the pauper taint and become strong, healthy and good men and women."

The writer has known many children anxious to go to Canada, but whom it was found necessary to reject at the last moment from the belief that they were unfitted for Canadian farm life and work.

'There are three classes of children in England,' said Brother Finn Barr, of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Manchester, at the Edinburgh conference, '(1) The intelligent smart boy, (2) the dull, plodding, awkward lad, and (3) the boy below par in intellect, and requiring permanent supervision. These lads at the age of fourteen are taken from school and find work in a 'blind alley' occupation. When they reach their eighteenth year they are too old and big for their 'jobs' and find themselves not qualified for any other kind of occupation. There are thousands of boys in Great Britain whose parents are so poor as to make it absolutely necessary that their children must earn a few pence to help along, and they take a blind alley job, such as sitting on the rear of van to prevent the theft of goods and similar occupation, which leads to nothing. I have come into personal contact with many of this class of boys in London and other cities, at work, when they should have been at school. The question of overcrowding the blind alley kind of employment will never be settled satisfactorily until the broad acres of England are again brought under the spade and plough.'

The teaching of trades in England, would from my observation appear to be perhaps a trifle overdone, and one wonders where the great army of tailors, shoemakers and harness makers, that are being turned out of the schools will find employment at their trades, in this age of labour saving devices. If 'jobs' could be found for these young people as gardeners and farm labourers they would soon be sufficiently trained to take places as farm labourers in Canada, and the way would thus be open to them to success and an independent and happy life.

Before leaving the old country I visited the various Juvenile Emigration Agencies and Homes, and one and all agreed that the children sent by them to Canada had done remarkably well. There would appear to be a disposition, on their part to emigrate a larger number of children than heretofore.

Your obedient servant,

G. BOGUE SMART,

*Chief Inspector of British Immigrant Children and Receiving Homes.*

OTTAWA, December 21, 1916.