

# Manitoba as a Field for Settlement

By Hon. Senator Boulton.

HAVING been desired by Mr. Owen to write for *UPS AND DOWNS* an article on the suitability of Manitoba for the settlement of some of Dr. Barnardo's young people who have grown up under the influence of farm life in Eastern Canada, it affords me great pleasure to comply with his request. I have watched with a great deal of interest the development of the Manitoba farm in the County of Russell, an important branch of Dr. Barnardo's work, to which young people are brought direct from the London Homes. It consists of 9,000 acres of excellent land, secured, no doubt, in anticipation of the possible requirements for settlement for some of his matured offspring, and out of which several 160-acre farms have already passed into the possession of those brought out, and upon which they are carving out independent homes for themselves. They have, I believe, purchased them from the Home upon terms within reach of their progressive ability to pay for them, making their own improvements to suit themselves.

It is desired to convey a fair and honest idea of what the Province of Manitoba is for the readers of *UPS AND DOWNS*. It is found that there are a large number of young lads, grown up, with a practical idea of farming, and young women who have been brought under the influence of the domestic economy of farm life. Where land is expensive and capital necessary, they have not the opportunity to launch out on their own account. In Manitoba and the North-West Territories, things are different; the supply of land in a state of nature and yet to be cultivated is very large, and the ability of a man to carve out an

independent home for himself with little aid but that of his own labour is practically unlimited at the present time. To put this fact before them in an intelligent light is the desire of Mr. Owen. The writer has had an experience of nineteen years of prairie life, having brought his family in the year 1880 far beyond the confines of settlement to the Assiniboine River, 230 miles north-west of the city of Winnipeg, to Township 21, Range 28, having to cover the whole distance with his oxen and wagon, and where for several years the conveniences of railway communication were wanting. The fact that he has surmounted the difficulties incidental to those conditions without other aid than energy and patience, and that a family of seven children has grown up around him, is sufficient to convince the most sceptical that the country has a capacity to reward individual effort, when contentment with surrounding conditions is the ruling spirit. Not that contentment that lowers character, which degenerates through laziness or idleness, but that contentment which is satisfied that surrounding circumstances will give ample return for the display of energy and industry, and that does not cause the individual to see distant green fields through a mirage.

Since 1880 conditions have changed. For 300 miles west of the city of Winnipeg settlement has become solidified. Municipalities and villages are spread over the face of the country, and all the adjuncts to Canadian civilization and progress have laid their foundations. The new comer steps into a national home all ready built for him. Railways virtually at his door, bringing in supplies and carrying off his surplus