

family. But amongst the whole class there is a disposition to put children to work at a very early age. Although in this respect I should not wish to imply that an "adopted" child fares worse upon the whole than the farmer's own child, yet I am quite sure that the position of all these children adopted in view "of their future usefulness" is such as to justify the recommendation for more strict supervision which I venture to offer in another part of this Report.

There is a wide difference in the position of the employers with whom children are placed in service, whether under indenture or verbal agreement. Many of them are yeomen farming their own land of one or two hundred acres. Some of them are old settlers or sons of old settlers, living in good houses, a few of stone or brick, the greater number the ordinary Canadian plank house. Some of them, again, are only recent settlers, or men who have just taken up their allotment. I have several times driven through miles of forest to find the child of whom I was in quest in a remote log hut, or "shanty," the settler's first home, just put up upon the few acres of recently cleared land. It might be thought that the position of a child so placed would be exceptionally hard and dreary. I must say, however, that some of the best examples of adoption or service that came under my notice were in homes of that humble character. Employers and children seemed somehow to be mutually more dependent upon each other than in more thickly settled sections, and I saw quite enough of that class of people to feel justified in saying that, for a boy at all events, hardly any better class of service as a preparation for Canadian life can be found. A lad who has passed his early years in such service will have acquired the special knowledge that is essential for success in Canadian farming, and in which so many of our adult emigrants are so deplorably deficient. Except amongst the more wealthy class, gentlemen farmers, the children who have been adopted live with the family and are a part of it. It has more than once happened to me to have a former workhouse child for my neighbour at the abundant meal of which Canadian hospitality always expects the stranger to partake. This, however, is the bright side of the picture. Though generally kind and just, the Canadian farmer is often an exacting and unthoughtful master. Bound to make the most of his short season, he works through seed time and harvest from daylight to dark, and expects every hand that is capable of work to do the same. Many of the children who have been placed out in service at 13 or 14 years of age have certainly a hard time of it.

Farm service, however, forms only one, though the larger part, of the employments in which these emigrant children are engaged. Many of them, far too many, are placed out in domestic service in towns and villages. This is certainly the least desirable sort of service in which they can be engaged. It is no reflection upon any class of Canadian people to say that in no English town or village of about the same population and general character are children who are merely servants, and who are strangers and friendless, exposed to greater risks than in such a country as Canada. The facilities for getting employment and the temptation of a few dollars more wages induces constant change of place, unsettled habits, and an assertion of independence at an age that most needs restraint. The evil of this is much more felt in domestic service or other employments in towns and villages than it is in the country amongst the farming class. In saying this I only repeat what persons of experience, some of them connected with the "Homes," have often observed to me. It frequently happens, too, that the situations in