

party to land in Halifax, where they were met and taken in charge by Mr. Struthers, who was on hand to meet us. The landing of this contingent with their baggage was accomplished without hitch or difficulty, and before midday we had seen them off comfortably stowed away in a Canadian Pacific tourist car, victualled for their long journey of six days and nights. They started off in the best of spirits with ringing cheers for the good ship and her genial commander, Captain Maddox, who had made himself enormously popular with us and took leave of the lads in the car with a few cheery, kindly words of advice. Mr. Struthers is, we believe, to be congratulated on his present contingent. "The proof of the pudding is of course in the eating," but we shall be greatly surprised if the lads who have just gone up to the Farm Home do not, with very few exceptions, give a good account of themselves in the future, and turn out to be useful men and the right sort of settlers for the great North West.

At Halifax also landed a party of 175 girls and boys, who had also come out on the *Scotsman*, under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace of the Marchmont Home at Belleville. These children were recruited from the Manchester Homes and from various other Institutions throughout England, and from what we saw of them we must congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Wallace upon having brought out a very fine body of young people.

The departure of the Manitoba contingent, 63 strong, reduced our numbers to 147 and with this "little lot" we turned out in the afternoon for a good long walk, climbing up to the citadel at Halifax and enjoying the magnificent view of the City and Harbour. In the evening we went to church, where a most kindly welcome was extended us and when special prayer was offered for these little newly arrived strangers in a strange land, that the way might be opened for them and that the guidance and protection of the All Father might be about and around them in the New Country as it had been in the Old. On Monday we remained still in Halifax and again marched ashore and had a turnout about the town and common. In the evening the ship proceeded on her voyage to Portland and all next day we were making our way through hazy, disagreeable weather, across the Bay of Fundy and along the Maine coast. From Halifax to Portland we took round with us one of the United States Immigration Commissioners, one of the six "watch dogs" who, assisted by a large staff of inspectors, protect the United States ports from the landing of undesirable immigrants; halt, maimed, imbecile, pauper or otherwise unfitted for useful citizenship. This gentleman, who has had an immense experience in his business, spent a great deal of time amongst our boys and was quite enthusiastic in his praise of them as a fine, healthy, well-trained body of young people. Such testimony is invaluable to us and although we do not anticipate having to find homes for our boys beyond the dominion of the "Union Jack," it is pleasant, in face of the prejudice so industriously fostered against us in certain quarters, to know that one who knows whereof he speaks, to the extent of a United States Immigration Commissioner, is thus highly favourable in his opinion of us as a class of immigrants. On arriving at Portland our boys had to pass an examination at the hands of three American doctors with the verdict "most satisfactory" and not a single case in any way taken exception to. Everything went swimmingly in Portland and by 11.30 a. m. Wednesday morning a Grand Trunk special was spinning us along to the West at the rate of 40 miles. West of Montreal a few boys left us for situations, according to arrangements previously made with the parties we were sending them

to, by which they were dropped off on the way to save the double journey to Toronto and back. The remainder of the party arrived in Toronto on the afternoon of Thursday, the 16th, all in good health and no one a whit the worse for the long journey by sea and land. Since then the distribution of the party has been actively progressing and there are now only about a score of the youngest boys to be provided for. We have had to refuse a great many applications for bigger boys and the demand has been most satisfactory. In fact all has so far gone well with our first party for 1896 and the report that we have been able to send Dr. Barnardo will be such as cannot fail to cheer his heart and give him cause to "thank God and take courage."

Mr. Davis has had his hands full of work at the office during the past few weeks and the huge stack of letters that lie in front of us means a stiff task to read, to say nothing of weighing and considering their contents and sending replies to these many hundreds of correspondents. We only hope that our friends will bear with us if their letters do not receive quite as prompt attention as we should like to give them, and not think hardly of us if some little time elapses before we are quite "up to date" with our work.

Alfred B. Owen

OUR MANITOBAANS.

THE weather for the month of April has been most unfavourable for farming operations—cold, stormy, and overcast—most unlike the regulation Manitoba weather, with its bright sunny sky and clear bracing air. We expect, however, that rude Winter will in a day or two release his grasp, and Spring will burst upon us in all its wonted joyousness. The beautiful ponds and lakelets on the farm are fast filling up with the rapidly melting snow, and the artificial pond kept in place by a high dam constructed by the lads in 1889, and which has become of late years such a popular resort for enthusiastic swimmers and bathers, is overflowing its banks, and we trust some enterprising resident will this year place a boat on this water.

We mentioned, in the notes for March, that a party of recruits was expected to arrive about April 15th, and although, owing to unforeseen delays and difficulties, we did not get in quite on time, we managed to march from the cars and draw up in line on the railway platform at Russell on Sunday, April 19th—a party of as fine, bright-faced lads, fifty-seven in number, as ever crossed the Atlantic for the purpose of laying out a better line of life in this great and promising Dominion.

As regards nationality, a glance at the roster for this party will show how extended our worthy Director's field is becoming in the United Kingdom; Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Newcastle have each their little section in this party, and one hardy Welshman stands out in relief among the jolly company. To the young people who have never made a land journey by rail taking up nearly one week's time, it may be of interest should we describe this particular trip and the general nature of the country along the route from Halifax to the Russell Farm, in the far north-western corner of the fertile Province of Manitoba.

The staunch and powerful *Scotsman*, of the Dominion Line, began pouring forth her hundreds of steerage passengers on the dock at Halifax early on the morning of Sunday, April 12th, and after the purchase of tickets had been completed, the Customs officers assured that nothing contraband was being landed, baggage

checked and supplied with those wonderful little "brasses," the word was given, and up from their quarters marched the Labor House party into the neat and convenient tourist cars supplied from the perfect equipment of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Being old campaigners and filled with the doctrine that battles cannot be won by powder, shot and shell unless these requisites of the smoking field are well backed up by a goodly stock of hard tack, pork and beans, we first saw placed on board the front coach supplies for 60 people, to last over a period of ten days; took good care that the spacious watertanks of these convenient coaches were filled to the brim; and, while calling for three cheers for Mr. Owen, who was to reach his destination by another route, we were rolled out of the docks and were soon rapidly leaving behind us the interesting old city of Halifax, with its magnificent harbour and impregnable fortifications, the citadel of which towers some 260 feet above the sea.

Stewards and waiters are now selected from the lads for the purpose of preparing and distributing the food at stated intervals to these ever hungry tourists, and that the selection for Chief fell upon Samuel Hill, no one of the party regretted to their journey's end. By the time the first meal was despatched the train was speeding along at fifty miles an hour into the town of Truro, which is situated in a most picturesque district, and said to be a popular resort for hunter and angler. At Moncton, all our lads were ordered out for a walk, and we here heard interesting accounts of the remarkable tidal movements incidental to the Bay of Fundy and other parts of this coast. A very rapid run brought our "Special" into St. John, N.B., about 10 o'clock, p.m., and here we parted with an interesting little negro boy whom Dr. Barnardo is restoring to his distressed parents in Wilmington, North Carolina.

At St. John we enter upon the first section of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the lads having all taken to their beds for a night's rest to be awakened in the morning and informed that our progress was stopped by one of those annoying land and rock slides, and while waiting for the line to be cleared all hands were ordered out of the coaches to perform their ablutions in the clear snow water which was coursing along the railway ditches.

A breakfast of cornbeef and bread was served about 8 o'clock, and we ran on through some of the wildest parts of the State of Maine till the afternoon, when we again returned to Canada, striking the Province of Quebec in what is known as the Eastern Townships.

Just at this time of the year this part of the country is one great maple sugar camp, and we do not think our lads will soon forget the sport they had among the sap buckets of a camp in which our train was stopped while the damaged track was being repaired.

At 10 o'clock, p.m., our "Special" rolled into the Windsor station at Montreal, having accomplished 756 miles of our journey. Re-stocking our supplies, we glide out of Montreal at an easy rate of speed, running to Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, there to await the regular express train which is to carry us on to Winnipeg. While waiting at Ottawa nearly all our lads visited the government buildings and the beautifully situated Houses of Parliament, some of the more fortunate even getting into the House of Commons to have a look at our wise legislators, who were wearying away valuable time over the much belaboured school question.

At 2.30 p.m., our two cars were attached to the regular transcontinental train and we thundered heavily along up the Ottawa valley, still noted for its wonderful output of fine pine timber, past the interesting village of Mattawa, reaching North Bay some four hours late. At this point a large contingent of Ontario people going West to cast their lot with the native