

classes that shows the direct accomplishment of greater good to a greater number. These little lads had begun life under adverse circumstances, and through no fault of their own, and in many cases through no fault of those on whom they depended, had been thrown on the tender mercies of the world; and the laws of humanity and the instincts of social preservation demanded that provision should be made for them. We need not enlarge upon what the results would have been had they been left to endure want and privation, and face the world unaided and uncared for. As it is they have been fed and taught and trained. Life has been opened up for them afresh in a young country full of the richest possibilities. They have escaped whatever are the drawbacks of Institution life by the boarding-out system, and have, in almost all cases, been brought up under the care of kindly, Christian people, with whom they have shared their family life and simple comforts. Brought away from the fetid moral atmosphere of large cities, they have grown up in country homes, and have been educated in country schools, and they are now going out to earn their living in a country where a prosperous future awaits the industrious and persevering. Let those who differ from us show us a more excellent way; but, meantime, we invite all who care at all for the welfare and happiness of their fellow-men, to rejoice with us over the bright results we can show for our work and to join with us in the hope that God's blessing may continue to rest upon Dr. Barnardo's efforts in the future as it has done so unmistakably in the past.

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At the Toronto Home January has been a busy month, a large portion of our time being taken up with compiling our annual reports. Probably very few of our boys are aware that every year for several years after they arrive in Canada, we are expected to send home to Dr. Barnardo a full and detailed report of each boy's welfare and progress during the previous twelve months. To enable us to do this we have to maintain an elaborate system of records, so that no fact that comes to our knowledge regarding a boy may pass unnoted. We have a series of immense volumes in the office, each volume representing a party as it comes out from England, and the name and age of every boy is entered at the head of a folio as soon as he arrives, and the facts of his subsequent career are recorded beneath as the information reaches us by letter or from the visitors' reports, or from any other source whatever. One member of our staff devotes his whole time to entering these records, assisted at times by others, and he may be considered as our chief "Recording Angel." At the beginning of each year "the Books are opened" and from the records they contain we compile for Dr. Barnardo a brief sketch of every boy's career since the date of the previous report. As it may be imagined, this is no light task, and involves much burning of the "midnight oil," but on the whole it is a very pleasant task, inasmuch as the great majority of the reports are thoroughly satisfactory and encouraging, and tell of good honest work and steady progress. Some of them, of course, are of a very different character, and are as painful to us to write as they are to Dr. Barnardo to read; but the bad reports are the small minority, and of the two thousand or so that we have reported upon during the last few weeks there is but a small number of whom we could wish that we had not to write.

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While on the subject of our official Records I cannot help doing myself the pleasure of bearing tribute to the faithful, efficient service rendered to the work by the various members of

our staff, and which has been never more conspicuous than during the past year. I think I am not wrong in saying that it would be very hard to find a more zealous, devoted body of workers than those who are associated with me in their different capacities. Mr. Davis is at his post late and early, and brings to his duties an amount of judgment, tact, experience and all-round usefulness that are invaluable to us. I cannot speak too highly of the energy, zeal, and thoroughness with which Mr. Griffith has discharged his duties during the year. In his capacity of visitor he has travelled many hundreds of miles in all weathers and at all hours, and has accomplished a marvellous amount of useful and important work. Mr. Gaunt has had under his charge the Boarding Out work in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, and we could not have placed that important department in more conscientious and efficient hands. To his painstaking and indefatigable efforts its success is very largely due, and though, like one of old, he is disposed to be "careful and troubled about many things," we are sure it must be a source of much thankfulness and gratification to him to see the bright and permanent results of the work to which he has devoted himself. Mr. Blasdale is entirely occupied with the formidable task of keeping up the Registers. He came to us with over twenty years' experience as clerk to a large Bench of Magistrates in Yorkshire, and we can only say that he has fully maintained, in his position on our staff, the high record as a faithful worker and competent official that he brought with him from his former sphere. Miss Kennedy is our principal stenographer, and as such her work is "known and read" by all our boys and other correspondents. We consider ourselves highly fortunate in having, for several years past, had the services of one so thoroughly capable and possessing the accuracy, carefulness, and intelligence so essential in secretarial work, and so hard to find. Our school-mistress, Miss Pearson, has shown that she has her heart in her work, and the boys who have passed through the school during the past few years will be glad to know that she is still at her post and discharging her duties as efficiently and energetically as ever. As to Mrs. Cunerty, we are sure that everyone who has ever eaten and drunk and slept at the "Home" will agree that there is but one Mrs. Cunerty in all the world, and we could not attempt to do justice to the subject; but we can only say that if any Institution can produce a matron more kindly, more devoted, or more anxious to make anybody and everybody around her happy and comfortable, than Mrs. Cunerty, they are fortunate indeed.

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The end of January brings us to the opening of the campaign in the coming season's work of providing for new comers. We have in fact already received a good many applications for the first party that we hope to reach us, as usual, early in April, and there seems every prospect of a very large demand. Our friends can help us by putting us in communication with any who require boys, and who are good people to take boys under their care, and we shall be glad to forward, to any one who desires, the form of application, with all necessary information as to the terms and conditions upon which the boys are placed.

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We do not anticipate that the party will include any large number of big boys, but there is almost sure to be a good many from 12 to 15 years of age, who are now under training at Stepney and Leopold House, and who will come out ready for work.

Alfred B. Davis

MANITOBA FARM NOTES.

Even old residents of North-Western Manitoba, used as they are to delightful, bright and clear winter days, the weather of the month of December and January has proved surprising, and many are the words of praise bestowed upon the "clerk of the ever-present commodity for the quality of the supply furnished the Industrial Farm during the period just mentioned; why, even our friends Overton and Wood must admit that nothing of the kind is produced even within the limits of the salubrious Indies.

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We do not know if the bright sunshiny days have had anything to do with the decision, but we are pleased to be able to record the fact that another of our young men, John Brown, whose portrait is reproduced on this page, has shown faith sufficient in the country and in his own resources to make a purchase of land adjoining Dr. Barnardo's Farm, the south-east quarter of section nineteen, township twenty, range twenty-eight, just north of the farm of Mr. McConnell, whose location will be well remembered by all the old lads of the Manitoba contingent. It is Brown's inten-



JOHN BROWN.

tion to begin operations upon this land, which for wheat growing qualities cannot be excelled in Manitoba, in the early spring, and within two years we expect to hear of his marketing as much and as good wheat as his neighbours, Messrs. George Fisher and Henry Pettitt, whose grain last year was equal in quality to the best. Neighbour Pettitt's returns must have been pretty satisfactory, as he has struck away to the east, the direction from which all good things come, even the blooming wives of our young farmers, and we live in the belief that our friend will not this time return alone, and should he come with an extra lot of suspicious looking trunks and parcels, with two tickets in his pocket, no person of his acquaintance in Manitoba will fail to wish him much joy.

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The writer was pleased to learn a few days ago that another of the ex-foremen of the Industrial Farm, Ernest Albert Long, had joined at the close of the year the happy army of Benedicts and settled on a farm in the Bin-scarth district. Heartiest congratulations are in order, and that Mr. and Mrs. Long may attain much deserved success is the sincere wish of the Barnardo colony.

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Mr. Blythe, the old-time Farm Superintendent, returned on the 12th January from a well-merited vacation of three weeks, which he spent in travel through parts of the Western States and Ontario. Mr. Blythe has no desire to move the Barnardo Farm to any of the districts he visited, we believe; and he finds the return to dry footing, in place of mud and slush, a pleasant change.

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Naturally the great event of the Farm Home since the date of the last Notes over the signature of the writer, was the annual Christmas dinner,