

sell. In the work of visitation, Mr. Griffith and Mr. Gaunt have been unceasingly at work during the whole of the year amongst the boys, and over 2,500 visits have been paid within the twelve months. The girls' department can probably show as good a record, so that we can take credit to ourselves for having laboured to keep in touch with our young charges, and for not abandoning them to the mercies of the world until they have become well established in the country and have reached an age when they can safely be left to conduct their own affairs.

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As to the extent to which we accept the responsibility of caring for and looking after any of our boys and girls, who, through fault or misfortune, are in risk of becoming a public burden, we unhesitatingly challenge anyone to produce a single case in which we have not readily and to the full borne our own burdens. Our cash accounts give, to us very painful, evidence of our determination to allow none of Dr. Barnardo's proteges to be a charge upon municipalities or local institutions. Fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) for hospital maintenance for a boy who, after being eight years in the country, was attacked by inflammation of the lungs; eighty dollars in payment of a doctor's bill for attendance upon a boy who was seriously injured by being run over by a roller; over thirty dollars for hospital charges, and a further sum of thirty dollars for board for a young man nearly 30 years of age, whose eyesight failed after ten years' steady, faithful work; twenty-five dollars for board and six dollars for railway fare for a lad of 20, who had been stricken with a form of paralysis after he had been at work in the country for six years, during which time he had maintained an unblemished record and had been in splendid health and vigour; and many other similar items establish conclusively our contention that the country has no grievance against us for adding to its burdens.

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Any boys who have committed offences against the law have been promptly taken under our charge; boys who were giving trouble have been received back to the Home; boys who were subjected to wrong or injustice have been protected; boys out of employment have had situations found for them. We have corrected our delinquents; we have nursed our sick; we have buried our dead; in short we have striven to act "in loco parentis" to every boy under our charge, and no case of need or trouble or in which a boy has done wrong or wrong has been done to him, that has been reported to us, has been wittingly neglected.

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With respect to the last of Dr. Barnardo's principles, that any child who has failed entirely, either physically, mentally or morally, shall be returned to England, we have availed ourselves of this safety-valve not unfrequently during the past year. It has indeed been suggested at home that we have been a little too ready to relieve ourselves in this way of our worst burdens, and, considering how terrible a blot it is upon a boy's life and prospects to be sent back in disgrace, that we should have shown more leniency in some cases, but we have felt it better to keep our record clear, and leave no ground to our opponents upon which they could attack us for not acting up to our professions.

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There are other important "items" that might be enumerated to the credit of Dr. Barnardo and his boys "in account with" the Dominion of Canada—the number of our boys who during the past year have taken up land or made important improvements and developments in land they already held; the immense amount of useful service rendered by our boys

on farms all over the country, assisting in production and adding in the most direct way to the wealth of the country; the large sums of English money expended in the maintenance of the various institutions and in boarding the younger boys and girls in farm households; and, lastly, the incalculable value to the country of this addition to its rural population of a large body of young people growing up in habits of thrift, industry and uprightness, and developing into sober, law-abiding members of society.

As to the other side of the account, we should have to employ very powerful mental magnifying glasses to find aught that Canada has against Dr. Barnardo and his work. True, we have had failures, and there are a few boys in the country who would be better out of it, but this number is less than one per cent. of the whole, and "what are they among so many?" It is an insignificant percentage, and yet, strange to say, it is too often by this one per cent. that we are judged and condemned. The reason is not far to seek. It is the one per cent. who figure in the newspapers, who wander about the country, who are continually in evidence; and so it is that one not unfrequently hears people remark that all the boys they have personally known have been good and done well, but they believe Dr. Barnardo's boys are "a bad lot." We are not a bad lot. We are not perfect by any means or more free than other folks from the faults and failings of erring humanity, but we can look back upon the record of 1896 as showing that our boys have in the main done well for themselves and others, and that under God's good hand Dr. Barnardo's emigration work has proved itself more conclusively than ever to be one of the grandest outcomes of philanthropic enterprise, and one of the most hopeful and successful solutions of our most perplexing social problems. And we appeal to the people of Canada to deal with us justly, to judge us and our merits by the record of the great majority, not by the insignificant minority, and to recognize the desire of Dr. Barnardo and those associated with him, to carry on their work in such a way that his boys and girls may have a fair start in life and an opportunity given them of making honourable careers for themselves in this great new country, without prejudice or detriment to any class of its citizens.

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It remains only for us to wish for every one of our readers a very happy and enjoyable Christmas, and that throughout the coming year they may have abundantly vouchsafed to them the blessing of God that maketh rich. Looking back upon the record of the past we have indeed abundant cause to say "hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and at the beginning of the new year we would seek to inspire our own hearts and the hearts of our boys with the assurance that we and our affairs are the concern of Him who forsaketh not nor faileth. Let us go forward, therefore, with increasing steadiness of aim, and with renewed resolution to do our duty, to shun all that would degrade or tarnish our good name as individuals or as a class of the community; to have the fear of God before our eyes; and ever to hearken readily in every transaction of daily life to the voice behind us saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Alfred B. Orwin

"I cheerfully enclose with this a dollar in payment of the subscription I promised Dr. Barnardo to send each year to the support of the Home." So writes one of our old boys in a letter just received. To all our friends: "Go and do thou likewise."

MANITOBA FARM NOTES.



RING at one of the bells of the new telephone line which has been finished between the Home, the Manager's house, the Railway Station and Dr. Wright's office, during the past month, calls the writer to attention, and he has repeated to him by Mr. Thom, the genial agent of the Manitoba and North Western Railway, a telegraph message from the Managing Editor of *UPS AND DOWNS*, instructing that copy for the January number must go forward by mail of the 14th—this in the late afternoon of the 12th, and tomorrow, Sunday; pretty short notice, Mr. Vipond, with no subject selected. Ah, the weather!—a subject always in season, even when you are experiencing unseasonable weather, as we were doing in Manitoba through the greater portion of the month of November; however, when we read of cyclones to the South, murderous "Northers" in Texas, and devastating floods in Wisconsin and Ohio, we stop grumbling at the thermometers, and express thanks that no loss of life or property has occurred in our favoured locality; that our Manitoba and North Western Railway has barely lost an hour through storms, and that we still receive *UPS AND DOWNS* sharp on time.

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The great Lake Winnipeg basin thus appears to be a favoured region, and in this connection it is worthy of note that the late United States Consul at Winnipeg, Mr. J. W. Taylor, than whom no better informed man on Canadian North-West conditions ever put foot on the rich prairie soil of the West, expresses his unshaken belief that this portion of the continent owns no cyclone belt, and I am sure my readers will agree with me that we can do without the article as long as Divine Providence permits.

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The great Lake Winnipeg basin: Do you young men, who will no doubt be sooner or later prospecting either for mineral lands in the gold districts of Western Ontario, the far-famed mountains of British Columbia, or claiming your undisputed right in the productive soil of Manitoba or some of the western territories, know the boundaries of this wonderful basin and the treasures it contains? To attempt to describe this great land of promise in the pages of *UPS AND DOWNS* would be absurd, but it will do us no harm to refresh our memories a little by going generally over the boundaries and testing our capacity, so to speak, at taking in great territorial space, for no man can live long in this country of grand distances and remain narrow-minded or of contracted vision, and as the talented George R. Parkin writes in his interesting book, "The Great Dominion," a new and strange sense of vastness grows upon the mind as one travels day after day over the prairies, with the distant sky line as the chief object which fixes the eye. The impression is different from that produced by wide space at sea, for the imagination at once begins to fill up these enormous areas with homes and busy inhabitants. The territory known as the Lake Winnipeg basin covers approximately twenty-eight degrees of longitude, that is the lake before mentioned receives water from the lakes and swamps, the head waters of the Savanne River, in longitude ninety degrees in the east, from the glacier in Howse Pass in the Rocky Mountains, in longitude one hundred and eighteen degrees in the west, and varies in elevation above the sea from about fifteen hundred feet on the eastern boundary, to six thousand three hundred feet, the height of the farthest western tributary. In width the basin is some ten degrees of latitude, and has, flowing through it and into the present Lake Winnipeg, some very remarkable rivers; the great Saskatchewan comes tumbling down from the west, bringing in its magnificent flow the melted snows of mountain peaks one thousand miles away; the noble "Winnipeg" after dashing over dozens of beautiful falls on its way from the enchanting Lake of the Woods, slips peacefully into the bay near the historic Elk Island and loses itself in the bosom of the turbulent inland sea.

Nor must we forget the Red River of the north as it used always to be called in distinction from its namesake running along the northern boundary of Texas through Louisiana into the Mississippi, flowing to the Mexican Gulf. The Red River, rising to latitude forty-five degrees, runs through the centre of a valley unsurpassed