

trade, is usually fully and well occupied by the process of being broken into the ways of the country, and in learning and making known to others their own capabilities. Hitherto, ninety per cent. have come out, as we have said, with the fixed intention of farming. Under these circumstances, it is equally foolish and ineffectual to attempt to frown down the farm pupil system, until we can supply an adequate substitute.

It is true that the combination of money with ignorance of the world constitutes a prey which attracts the ever-watchful shark, but that the system is capable of good has been shown by some excellent and honest work both in Ontario and the United States. All, however, are agreed that the time has come to take active steps to prevent a repetition of the frauds and abuses which have existed in the past.

Before prescribing the remedy, it is necessary to make a careful diagnosis of the case, and we may, with profit, examine the weak points of the farm pupil system as it stands.

The services of an agent are only sought once in a lifetime. As a consequence discrimination too often comes only after actual experience, and is rendered the more difficult by the activity of dishonest agents and by the fact that honest men are sometimes thoughtlessly maligned by worthless pupils.

The agent must not only be honest, but discreet. Sufficient care has not always been taken in the selection of the farmers with whom pupils have been placed. Many young men, brought up as gentlemen, have been sent to a class of farmers, who are ignorant and incapable of understanding the feelings of a gentleman. Again, the contracts made by the pupils are most injudicious. They not only bind themselves to live with a man, whom they have never seen and know nothing about, for a whole year, but they pay their premium, often an exorbitant one, in advance, which not infrequently is forfeited before the twelve months are ended. Two or three months are generally sufficient to enable a bright young fellow to find his feet and to earn his own living, and it often happens that, by the end of that time, the pupil finds that he is capable of earning wages or that he has mistaken his vocation.

The prevention of abuses in the pupil system, it thus appears, can only be secured by the interposition, between the farmers and the pupils, of a body of unquestionable honesty, and of sufficient standing, to at once command and retain the confidence of the public.

We would suggest, as the only possible remedy, the formation of a parents association in Great Britain, with a strong influential directorate. The agents employed by this association should be paid a salary out of the fees received from the pupils, and make an annual report to the head office in London; while by having the contracts carefully drawn between the association and the farmers, providing for payment to the farmers through the association by the month, instead of in advance, the pupil would have a reasonable assurance of receiving fair treatment and a valuable consideration for his money.

An attempt to provide a substitute for the farm pupil system is now being made in the Western States. We have before us the prospectus of a company to engage in horticulture and a number of industries subsidiary to horticulture. The company owns a residential club house in which the young men will be gathered together, and a practical instructor is provided for the younger members, the purchaser of a certain number of shares being entitled to receive a deed of an orchard of ten acres. The experiment is novel and it will be interesting to see how it will succeed. Such a plan could not be worked upon Canadian farms under the present system of farming, but it might be possible in connection with horticulture or market gardening.

The proper conduct of the farm pupil system must, as we have said, lie with the British public, but our Government can do much in the meantime, not by attempting to frown down a system, which, at present, is the only means of providing for a wide spread want, but by pointing out the dangers to be avoided, by warning parents to employ no agents who cannot produce satisfactory testimonials from their pupils, and by the active prosecution of all swindlers.

To arrive at a true solution of the difficulty, we must go to the root of the matter. If the sons of English gentlemen are to make successful colonial citizens, they must be brought up in harmony with colonial life and colonial institutions.

At least seventy-five per cent. of the boys that take up farming on first arrival, are to be found after two or three years in all sorts of other occupations all over the country; and thus the most important years in a boy's life are absolutely thrown away, a most serious consideration in these times of increasing competition. Many a good and useful career is spoilt by this break in the connection between the period of education and the settling down to work, and by the sudden plunge from the care of parental supervision to unrestrained freedom in colonial life. After a certain age a boy's habits and ideas become fixed, and before he can succeed, at any rate in business-life in a strange country, these must be changed and remoulded to be in touch with the life around him. It is most desirable, therefore, that a boy should receive at any rate some part of his education in the country in which he is destined to make his living. There are several schools in Canada of well earned and established reputation at which an English boy could profitably finish his education. Among these we may mention the schools at Port Hope and Lennoxville and the Kingston Military College: of these three, perhaps, the most suitable for our purposes is the College at Kingston. Although ostensibly an institution for military education only, by the report of the Commandant, dated June, 1893, we see that its graduates are to be found in the church, law, medicine, agriculture, civil engineering, commerce, railway management, in the different departments of the civil service, North-West Mounted Police, Canadian permanent militia and Her Majesty's regular forces: to these we may add railway and canal construction, mining, and the United States hydrographic survey. Here, then, is a school, which will at once commend itself to the British parent, and the military discipline would be most desirable for many of the young men whose cause we are pleading.

We submit that, instead of paying premiums as farm pupils, money would be far more wisely expended in tuition fees at a Canadian school. The boy will be under safe and wise supervision, make friends who will be useful to him in after life, and, together with his education, without loss of any time, gain a knowledge of the country, and find out for what occupation he is best suited.

It is unfortunate that, by the terms of the Act of Parliament, regulating the conduct of the Kingston College, as amended by a recent Order in Council, cadetships are limited to British subjects between the age of fifteen and nineteen, whose parents, or themselves, have resided in Canada for three years preceding candidature. The reason of this, no doubt, is that the College is mainly supported by Canadian taxpayers; but, from the Canadian taxpayers' point of view, we can see no possible reason why the cadetships should not be thrown open to British subjects, irrespective of any limitation of residence in Canada, provided that the fees are fixed at the cost of maintenance, and there is an understanding that the pupil shall remain in Canada. We sincerely hope that the matter will be brought before the notice of our Government, and that the regulations may be amended in this respect.

Apart from all question of humanity the subject has a national importance which is not generally appreciated. The present condition of things is a reflection on our national intelligence. Moreover, these young men are, most of them, well connected; they have, many of them, a large circle of acquaintances among an influential class in Great Britain, whose good will and good opinion it is most desirable that we should retain, for it is to Great Britain that we look both for our capital and the bulk of our colonists. The statements of the young colonist are often accepted in an offhand manner without question, and if he should not be successful his failure is sometimes unfairly attributed to the country. This has been fully appreciated both by the officials of the C.P.R. and the experienced managers of Land Companies in the United States, none of whom express themselves as particularly interested in encouraging immigration of this class, for a bad settler is far worse than no settler at all. At the same time, all admit that the gentleman colonist, who is a success, is the very best. The matter, indeed, not only affects Canada, but it is of the greatest importance to Great Britain, where every year the number of those, who are forced to leave their native shores to make a living, is increasing. It is to be hoped that an intelligent discussion of the subject may lead to some permanent and satisfactory solution of this difficult question.

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