

healthiest climates in the world, and there is no country on the face of the globe more rich in minerals, in the fertility of its soil, in the wealth of its forests and its fisheries. We have unrivalled facilities for inland transportation in our great lakes and rivers, and the development of the natural resources of the country has only been slow in the past because other countries have attracted the capital and labour necessary for that development. There are signs, however, that a new era is dawning for Canada. The tide of emigration is beginning to spread itself over the Western plains, and capital is finding its way to our mines and manufactures both in the East and West. We are steadily advancing in population, wealth and prosperity, and Canadian enterprise, energy and resource are building up slowly but surely what is destined to be a great commercial and agricultural nation. The intelligence and the character of our people are the best hope and guarantee for the success and advancement of any country, and the future of Canada is assuredly safe in the hands of the liberty-loving, God-fearing and clean living race that form the bulk of its population. We are indeed favoured in our country and in our country's prospects, and we hope every reader of UPS AND DOWNS will make Coronation Day the occasion for thanking God for His goodness and mercies to us as a people, and beseeching Him to grant a continuance of these blessings, and that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us under the reign of King Edward VII., as it has been under his beloved and honoured predecessor.



**Merit and
Reward.**

WE have lately had the honour and pleasure of awarding Dr Barnardo's silver medal to over 200 lads, in recognition of their having served with credit and unblemished record their terms of apprenticeship. This periodical award of medals has been an established institution of our work for many years past, and the sub-

ject has been often referred to in UPS AND DOWNS. For the benefit of new comers, however, we may explain that Dr. Barnardo, as a means of personally encouraging his boys in good conduct and faithful service, gives each year a certain number of medals, which he authorizes us to award on his behalf to those lads who complete long engagements, having earned a satisfactory character from their employers. As is well known, the majority of the boys whom we place out are engaged, after a short period of trial, for terms of from three to five years. The engagement may be closed on either side at any time by a month's notice, so that the conditions are not severely binding, but it gives our young boys a sense of being permanently settled in their homes during the time they are learning their business and serving their apprenticeship in the country. Yearly engagements would mean a degree of unrest that is most undesirable, and, moreover, would involve an amount of bargain making that it would be impossible to accomplish with due and just regard to the interests of all concerned. We therefore adopt the long engagement method, with the stipulation that we can remove the boy at any time if we think it desirable in his interests to do so; and the employer, on the other hand, can return him to us if he fails to prove himself satisfactory. For the first year or two, during which most of the younger boys are attending school for a considerable portion of their time, they earn but little, and, we are often told—although, naturally, we decline to admit the soft impeachment—are as much plague as profit; but their employers have the later years of the engagement to look forward to to recoup them for the time and trouble taken in training the youngsters and for the non-profitable period of the engagement. If the full term is fulfilled without our receiving a complaint and the reports of the boy that reach us through the Visitors or from the employer's letters are in all respects satisfactory he is then eligible for Dr. Barnardo's medal, and the 250 who have just received them have qualified themselves in the manner stated for