

The Farm.

Dr. Barnardo's Home—One Solution of the Farm Labor Question.

Mr. Alfred B. Owen, agent for Dr. Barnardo's Home, Toronto, writes us in regard to the work of the Institution during the past year.

"Between the months of April and August, 1889, we placed our 300 boys who came from England in three parties, numbering respectively 150, 100 and 50. In addition to this number, 96 were brought out to our Farm Home in Manitoba, where they will receive a year's practical training before being placed out with farmers. The boys sent out have in all cases passed through a period of careful training in the London Homes, where, at the present time, 3,250 boys and girls are receiving maintenance and education, and being taught and trained for positions of usefulness in life. The boys who have passed through our hands during the past year have, as usual, been selected with great care from this large number, and our aim has been, as always, to send none but those who are at least physically healthy, mentally intelligent, and morally pure. As long as we do this, although there have been, and always will be, failures and disappointments, the charge cannot be laid against the work of the Institution that in giving these orphan lads a start in life, they are imposing a burden upon the country, or making an undesirable addition to the population of the Dominion. The demand for our boys during the past season has far exceeded anything in our previous experience in the work. Long before our first party left England in March, we had more applications for them than we could supply, and every day during the spring and summer letters poured in upon us from farmers all over the country, applying for boys of all ages and descriptions. It is needless to say we have been obliged to disappoint a very great number, while others we had to keep waiting many weeks for our second and third parties, until we could send them boys. On the other hand, most of those to whom boys were sent have been highly satisfied. Out of the entire number placed during the year, we can only find the names of three whom we are compelled to regard as failures. We do not mean to say that all the rest are faultless, but they are earning their living honestly and respectably, and they have been guilty of no moral offence beyond the ordinary failings and shortcomings of boyhood. We claim for our boys that this is a record of which, as a class of embryo citizens, they have good reason to be proud, especially when it is remembered that the influences they are under are not always the best, and even among employers there are sometimes faults of over-exertion or over-indulgence that tend to foster what is not good in a boy's character.

"Our visitors and travelling agents have been actively at work during the year in all parts of the country visiting the boys in their homes, seeing them and their employers, and ascertaining that they are contented, that they are being well treated, and that the conditions upon which they are placed are being carried out. Our aim is to visit each boy at least once a year for the first two or three years after his being placed out—longer if necessary. In all, 997 visits have been made by our agents during the past year, and from the full and careful reports made of these visits we find that twenty-eight boys only out of the entire number, less than three per cent., are doing badly. We have altogether the names of 1,906 lads on our books, brought out and placed through the Province of Ontario since the year 1882; of this number we are in direct communication with about 1,350, or about 71 per cent., the remainder being chiefly those who, having come to man's estate, have changed their settlements two or three times, and we have thus been unable to follow their movements, and whom we therefore only hear of by chance and at considerable intervals. The task of keeping in touch and correspondence with a family even of 1,350 is not a light one, as

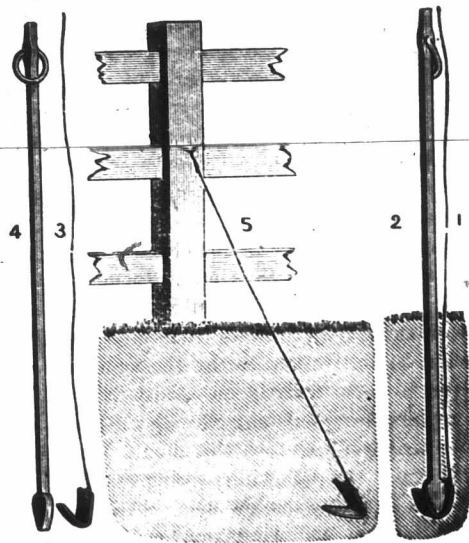
evidenced by the fact that our mail matter during the year 1889 shows 5,791 communications received at this office and 13,685 sent out. Our desire is to let every boy regard the agent of the Home as his friend, and we encourage them to come to us freely and under all circumstances for advice and help.

"We are glad and thankful to say we have had scarcely any instances of cruelty or ill-treatment of boys during the past year. We never send a boy to any man who is not certified by a minister or magistrate to be in every respect a fit and proper person to have a boy intrusted to his care, and this precaution, together with close and regular inspection, is an almost unfailing safe guard against a boy being subjected to serious ill-usage. In placing boys our rule is to allow a month's trial at the first commencement of the engagement. We make a special request that we may hear from the boy during the month, and if all is satisfactory, we correspond with the employer to settle finally the terms upon which the lad remains with him. The conditions, which are embodied in a simple form of agreement, provide for the boys receiving board, lodging, clothing, schooling for the younger boys, and for their attendance at church and Sunday school. Wages in the case of older boys are fixed for a year. Smaller boys are engaged until they are seventeen or eighteen, and receive wages in the form of a "lump sum" payable at the end of the engagement. Every agreement gives either party the right to terminate the engagement by giving a month's notice, but in addition to this we reserve for ourselves the right to remove summarily and without notice any boy whom we have reason to believe is not being properly treated. Our experience shows that these conditions are workable and generally fair and satisfactory.

"During the coming season we hope to place out at least as many boys as last year. They will vary in age from twelve to seventeen, and will have passed through the usual preliminary course of training and testing. We shall be glad to receive applications as early as possible, and will furnish the necessary particulars to anyone desiring them."

Fence Post Anchor.

The accompanying cut is a device termed by the patentee, Mr. J. D. Smith, Mount Elgin, Ont., an anchor for posts, which is intended to



secure such fences as the Russell, Crab, &c., that are built on the top of the ground. The wooden stakes usually used have not held securely during the high winds of this winter. The anchor (3 and 5) is a piece of flat iron bent in the form of a U, with a hole punched in one side for wire attachment. The anchor is driven into the ground two or three feet with a suitable iron bar (4) so as to keep the sides expanded (1 and 2) and in such a way that they take immediate hold and cannot be removed except with great force. The free end of the wire is fastened

to the bottom of post or stake to be secured. Without some such device as the above fences built like the Russell, Crab, &c., will be abandoned, as wooden stakes are easily loosened during wet weather and high winds, as can be seen by driving in any locality where these fences have been built, hundreds of rods have been blown down and with the wooden stakes attached. The anchor is out of the way of frost, is cheap, costing a fraction of a cent each, and much more easily driven than a wooden stake.

Seed Catalogues of 1890.

As a rule the standard seedsmen of each locality are the people that are most apt to know the requirements of farmers in their own part of the country. Therefore it is a pretty safe policy to follow: that those who have given good satisfaction heretofore are the ones to patronize in the future. Among the seed catalogues received at this office we notice that of J. S. Pearce & Co., of London, Ont., which, on the inside cover, gives first a useful table that at once shows the quantity of each variety of seed per acre and per hundred feet for field and garden culture, and also the distance to plant different varieties of plants and quantity required per given space. It is altogether a comprehensive work, and there is a great deal of information to be gleaned from it. Among the novelties for field cultivation are the following, which will be found worthy of space on any well appointed farm:—Carter's Orange Giant Carrot, Pearce's Canadian Giant and Carter's Warden Prize Yellow Globe Mangels. Colorado spring wheat seems to have done the best in this locality. Oats have a new variety in the Golden Giant Side Oat and Rosedale Oat, which are well recommended. The Egyptian Mummy Pea is certainly a distinct and valuable new variety.

Wm. Rennie, of Toronto, issues the Illustrated Guide for Amateur Gardeners. As usual he is forward with some valuable new specimens, such as his selected Long Red Mangel of prodigious size, also Mammoth Yellow Intermediate, Rennie's Prize white oats and American Banner oat, Colorado spring wheat, also imported Chevalier two-rowed and Duck-bill two-rowed barley, which there is great hopes of Canadian farmers being able to export to Great Britain.

The old established house of J. A. Simmers, of Toronto, issues a neat descriptive catalogue in which the standard sorts of field roots, the Canadian Banner oats, and Ladoga spring wheat, are favorably mentioned.

Unfortunately we are not in receipt of the catalogues of the reliable seedsmen Steele Bros., Toronto, and John A. Bruce and Robert Evans, Hamilton, but hope to review these in our next issue, along with the new varieties of potatoes, corn, turnips, &c., and the different varieties of garden seeds and plants that may be new to our readers.

The seedsmen of New York lead out with some beautiful designs in descriptive catalogues. The old time seedsman, James Vick, Rochester, N.Y., fully describes many of the new and old varieties he has been noted for. Peter Henderson, New York, and John Lewis Childs, Queen's Co., N.Y., have most elaborate catalogues in the line of flower and garden seeds. Lovett's Guide to Horticulture, of Little Silver Spring, N.J., is very descriptive in the line of fruits and nursery stock; and Landreth's, Philadelphia, is replete with everything in the vegetable line. Johnson Stokes, 217 Market street, Philadelphia, Pa., sends a manual of garden and field seeds, full of novelties in these lines. Samuel Wilson, Mechanicsville, Bucks Co., Pa., has a collection of beautiful and rare plants and flowers. Any of our readers desirous of obtaining information in the novelties for the next season, as well as practical information on gardening, should send for any or all of these catalogues.