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**BARNARDO'S FREE TRADE WAIFS.**

This journal has always protested against the organized and persistent efforts of Dr. Barnardo to foist upon Canada the waifs and strays of humanity he makes it his business to rescue from the slums and gutters of London. We do not withhold our applause at the efforts he is constantly making to better the conditions of the unfortunates to whom he devotes the energies of his life, but we do object that Canada should be made a dumping ground for a class of humanity for whom we have no use, and whose presence cannot but be a source of contamination to the rising generation of our country. It is bad enough that Dr. Barnardo should have it in his power thus to afflict Canada largely through the donations of money he receives from British philanthropists whose love of doing good lies very pointedly in the direction of ridding their own country of a charge which would be even greater and more unbearable if British poor houses, prisons and eleemosynary institutions were forced to accommodate the unfortunates that he now so persistently dumps upon Canada. It is infinitely

worse, however, that in the infliction of this plague upon Canada, Dr. Barnardo should have the active co-operation and financial support of our own Government. Whatever else may be said of the system of protection as practised by our Government, by which our home industries are shielded from the unfair competition of the pauper labor of other countries, it is clear that in encouraging the importation of Barnardo waifs and strays great injustice and injury is done to the youths of Canada and to the whole community. Charity, we are told, begins at home; and if the aid and encouragement given to Dr. Barnardo by our Government in his business of exporting the refuse of the slums and purlieus of London to Canada, is done from charitable motives, we would suggest that the same expenditure made for the benefit of Canadian children would benefit Canada to a much greater extent. If, on the other hand, the aid afforded is with the impression or belief that the country would be benefitted by the accession of such an element, that idea should be dissipated at the earliest possible moment; and we gladly join hands with any who agree with us in the matter to abate a nuisance that is rapidly becoming unbearable.

We know that protest after protest has gone up to the Government in this matter; that many newspapers have declaimed against it; and that labor organizations have time and again demanded that these Barnardo waifs be kept out of this country; the latest remonstrance coming to our attention being the presentment of the grand jury of the Western Judicial District of Manitoba, at Brandon, a few days ago, who had this to say:—

We may be permitted to add that in our opinion some action should be taken by the authorities having in charge the immigration of foreign population to this country towards preventing the further importation of boys from the slums of the large cities of the Old World. We need not state that we refer more particularly to the class of youths which have been brought to the "Barnardo Home" from the Old Country.

This deliverance, we take it, is entitled to great consideration in that it represents the true feelings of that part of the country on that subject. We regret to observe, however, that the Empire shows up on the wrong side of the fence. It tells us, it is true, that some time ago, just after Dr. Barnardo's return home from a visit to Canada, it found occasion to disapprove of a plan suggested by him of Government inspection of the deported waifs upon their arrival at Montreal, as doing so would but aggravate whatever dissatisfaction there might exist towards the whole system. It objects to the presentment of the Brandon grand jury because it did not go at length into the causes which were considered sufficient for making the presentment; that without such information and a discussion of the matter it would be premature alike for Dr. Barnardo and those who do not believe in him to advance radical suggestions one way or the other. In other words the Empire chides the Brandon grand jury because it did not prepare a pamphlet on pauper immigration into Canada, and embody it in their presentment; and because they did not do so it depreciates what they did do and intimates that their presentment was radical and premature. It tells us, too, that it would not redound to the credit of Canadians to deny any honest Barnardo boy the chance of finding a home here—that it behooves us to look to what the civilized world would think of us, if we should, in our anxiety for the welfare of