

or city employment. We fully admit that boys' tastes and capabilities differ widely, and all are not adapted to country life, but on their first arrival, when they have to become acclimatized, to become familiar with the ways, customs, habits and speech of the new country, the farm-house is the right home for them, and we are satisfied that we should court failure, and commit a very grave mistake if, unless in very rare cases, as at present, we were to seek employment for our boys in large towns and place them as apprentices to trades or as "hands" in manufacturing establishments, where they would live in boarding-houses, and in their spare hours be exposed to all the temptations of the street. We are no novices in our work, and we speak whereof we know when we assert that our present policy is the right and safe one to adopt, and that we should grievously detract from the usefulness and fruitful results of Dr. Barnardo's work if we were to settle boys in any considerable numbers anywhere but on the farms and in the homes of the householders.

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We confidently predict that the pages of our **Boy Life in the North West**, present number, that will be read with the greatest interest and pleasure are those that contain the letters from our lads in the West. Old readers of **UPS AND DOWNS** will remember that on several previous occasions we have given special space to contributions from the section of Dr. Barnardo's big family whose headquarters are in the Winnipeg Institution, and whose homes lie to the west of the Red River of the North. We are very glad to have these letters to publish, not only because we wish the Western branch of our family to know and realize that they have a full share and place in the columns of **Ups and Downs**, but also on account of the generally bright and hopeful impressions of the present and future of our boys that these little narratively set personal

experiences cannot fail to convey. Here we have at first hand the record of what our boys are doing, how their time is spent in summer and winter, what their individual opinions are of the great country that is theirs by adoption, and what are their own plans and ideas for themselves for the coming years. And right heartily we congratulate our young correspondents upon what they have had to tell of themselves, and the way in which most of them have told it. We have wondered, indeed, to ourselves as we have read and re-read these letters, what the least friendly critic of our work could take exception to in the picture they give us of our boys in their Western homes. They leave no doubt in anyone's mind as to our youngsters having their full share of work. No one who reads of the herding of cattle on the prairie in the summer, the stacking of grain in the harvest field, the autumn threshing, the tending of stock throughout the winter, can accuse our lads of being cumberers of the ground, or can suggest that they are not earning their bread by the sweat of their face; but the letters show that the boys are interested in their work, and in its results; that it is not a mere dreary round of toil in which the chief concern is to get through the day's allotted task with the least exertion and without knowing or caring what object their efforts are serving. It is easy to imagine—and in many cases the surmise would, no doubt, be correct—that the boys are well-nigh as much interested in the number of bushels of wheat garnered, and the price realized, and the welfare of the live stock, as the master and owner himself. Labour is the lot of man and of our little lads in common with the rest of the human family, but there is nothing that suggests grinding drudgery; no echo of "The Song of the Shirt" in what our youngsters write of their work a day experiences. There are references to games and sports and entertainments sufficient to show that our boys have a fair share of