

It is now rather more than four years since Boarding Out became a recognized branch of our Canadian work, and like most other undertakings that Dr. Barnardo has

put his hand to, it has grown apace and accomplished most successful and satisfactory results. Previous to the inauguration of our Boarding Out scheme it was seldom that any boys were sent out from England under the age of 13. It was understood that they received their early training in the English Homes and were emigrated only when the time had arrived that they could be considered as fit to earn their own livelihood and be entirely self-supporting. Five years ago it suggested itself to Dr. Barnardo that it would be, in many ways, highly beneficial to the boys who were destined to settle in Canada that they should receive the greater part of their training in Canada itself, and that they should be sent out at a much earlier age, and that the money that would be expended upon their support in the English Homes should be expended in paying for their maintenance in Canadian country house-holds.

The advantages were obvious, inasmuch as it gave the little lads the benefit of family life and home influences, and surroundings which no institution, however well organized and managed, can ever supply, and it gave them their start in Canadian life at the age when it was no effort for them to adapt themselves to altered conditions. A boy of 14 or 15 has acquired habits of conduct and ways of living according to the surroundings under which he has been placed, and when he finds himself in a new country he realizes that it is "new," and it takes him a certain amount of time to come to his bearings, and in cases where a boy's temperament lacks "elasticity" the process is sometimes a difficult and a critical one. A child of 6 or 7, on the contrary, has had no time to strike root and his mind and habits are unformed, and when these little chaps find themselves in good comfortable Canadian homes, England and English life very soon fade away from their recollection and becomes a very dim and distant memory. They become at once Canadian in ideas and speech and habits, and Canada being the country of their adoption the sooner they do so the

Our Boarders

sent out specially for Boarding Out, after the regular immigration work was over for the season.

We soon decided that it was desirable to confine the Boarding Out work to a particular district, which we

within a comparatively limited area over thirty-three thousand dollars of English money are annually expended, among a class to whom such a source of revenue is the greatest boon. We do not profess to consider chiefly the

pecuniary interests of the foster parents, neither do we wish to have dealings with people who regard the question from the standpoint of profit, but at any rate this fact is a sufficient answer to the suggestion that our little boys are a burden to the country. So far we have seen the happiest results from this method of training and upbringing our little lads. With very few exceptions they have been received in the kindest spirit into the households and families of their foster parents. They have grown and thriven amazingly, and when the time has come for their being transferred to situations, they have come back to us looking generally the picture of health and boyish vigour. In most cases they have seen and learned enough on the farm to know how to make themselves useful in many little ways, and the farmers whose employ they enter find them a great improvement on the new arrivals from England, who, of course, come quite "green"



SCHOLARS AT CHAFFEY.

should consider as our nursery, and where there would be no fear of its clashing with our other operations, and



AT ALLANSVILLE.

The little lasses in the group are: Mary A. Turner, Annie Shmels, Bertha Marlow, Charlotte Upfield, Mary Matthews, Susan Creerer, Janet Marshall and Susie Harris. Miss Loveday informed us when supplying us with the names of these girls that they are all very happy in their home and school life, being treated with much kindness both by their teacher and their foster parents.

after careful consideration we resolved to devote our energies to the Muskoka district. We selected this rather remote northern region on account, in the first place, of its possessing a magnificently healthy climate, of its being reasonably accessible from Toronto, of its being settled chiefly with a thrifty, law-abiding, in all respects desirable class of settlers, and, moreover, because we had good reason to know that the money we had to offer for the maintenance of our little charges would go further and be more gratefully appreciated by the farmers in a recently settled district, where, amidst plenty of the necessities of life, ready money is comparatively scarce, than in older settled localities, where so much more produce is raised that is convertible into cash.

We had somewhat uphill work at first in finding suitable homes for our little boarders. It took time for people we approached to take hold of the idea, but when the ice was once broken it soon ceased to be a case of looking for places, but rather selecting the best out of large numbers of eligible applications. We have now about 550 little boys placed out in the districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound, for whose maintenance we are

to their work.

The one and only drawback to the system of Boarding Out is the grief and trouble caused by the inevitable parting. It is touching in the extreme to witness the broken-hearted distress on both sides, and we have seen boys fret and cry for days after parting with their foster parents, and the latter very little better themselves. It cannot be helped; the fledgelings must leave their nest, and at any rate the knowledge that there are honest hearts grieving at parting with him, and thinking of and praying for him as he goes out into the world, cannot but be an influence and power for good in a boy's life: so that the drawback of the Boarding Out work is in some aspects a blessing. For the rest, it is a movement full of hope and promise, and in reviewing the operations of the past year there is no part of our work that we can regard with fuller thankfulness and satisfaction.



AT UFFORD.

We are kept well supplied with information relating to the progress and general welfare of our young friends. The bulk of this, of course, reaches us in the "Visitor's Report," but frequently these are supplemented in the course of the year by a most interesting little report of progress from a youngster himself, his foster parents generally adding a line or two of spontaneous testimony. From those two sources we are able to pro-

(Continued on Page 3 of Cover.)



AT BRUNEL.

better. So in the Fall of 1891 we began to feel our way in this new departure, and a small party of little boys was