

Putting Young Canadians on the Right Track

A short, descriptive article of the Boys' Farm at Shawbridge, P. Que., where delinquent boys are made worthy citizens through pleasant environment and useful employment coupled with kind treatment.

By G. Gerald Blyth

THE CANADIAN Forestry Association's Exhibit Car has visited many interesting communities and been visited by thousands of interested spectators, but in the year's travel it is certain that the car has not been visited by a keener group of young Canadians than the boys from the Boys' Farm at Shawbridge, Province of Quebec. This institution boasts of no other than the able director of affairs of the world's greatest railway as president, namely, President E. W. Beatty, of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Boys' Farm was made possible through the generosity of such public spirited men as Mr. Beatty, Mr. Henry Birks, Mr. Lansing Lewis, and O. C. Dawson, and also receives the enthusiastic support of the Kiwanis Club of Montreal. Through the kindness of Mr. Barss, the Superintendent, who so ably directs the lives of the 177 boys under his care, the writer was recently shown over the premises.

Purposes of the Farm.

The Boys' Farm takes the place of the old-fashioned house of correction and fills the three-fold purpose of looking after boys who are orphans; those whose parents cannot give them the necessities of life, and those who have got off the beaten track and run foul of the Law. Congenial yet useful employment is given these boys, who are at all times under most careful supervision. Kindness and an exceedingly keen interest on the part of the entire staff from the Superintendent down, with an abundance of liberty, work marvels. The health of the boys receives considerable attention as does their spiritual welfare and the wholesome influences of a beautiful home life very soon win the boys over. The error of the boy's former way is brought home so forcibly when he begins to feel the influence of the new



School on the Boys' Farm

life, the new comrades and the new environment that it is not long before a complete transformation takes place.



The Boys' Farm Band at Shawbridge, P. Q.

The Boys' Farm is most charmingly situated in the heart of the Laurentian Mountains, only a short distance from Montreal. The boys work on the farm, in the tailor shop, look after the poultry, pigs, cattle and horses. There is work for all with a minimum of discipline.

The Day's Routine.

The day begins at 6 o'clock in the morning and the boys are early to bed. Regularity in sleeping, eating, play and work have a tendency to inculcate those higher qualities which are so essential to the successful man.

Mr. Beatty's Code.

In a very excellent address recently delivered to the boys in this institution by President E. W. Beatty,

of the C. P. R., he stated that there were three moral qualities without which a boy could not obtain permanent advancement; these were:— "Honesty, Courage, and Modesty." Everything at the Boys' Farm tends to develop these necessary qualities. The boys have in Mr. Barss, the Superintendent, a shining example to follow, and his remarkable personality seems to permeate the entire institution.

The boys at this institution through a carefully planned curriculum, kind treatment and healthful environment are being moulded into men; through a process of education they are being put on the right track.

Faith and a whole lot of determination were required to build up an institution like this one. Success is more than in sight for the Boys' Farm; it has already crowned the efforts of those who are responsible for this "life-savings" enterprise.

The Canadian Forestry Association intends to maintain friendly contact with

the Shawbridge boys through periodical visits of its lecturers.

I spent a most delightful Saturday and Sunday with the boys, inspected their living quarters; watched them at work in the kitchen, in the hay fields, the poultry run, etc. In passing with Mr. Dawson through the groups of boys gathered here and there in the grounds on Sunday, I was amazed to find that he knew them all by their first names and they all knew him. Sunday, after chapel, it was my privilege to address a mass meeting of the boys on the subject of Forest Conservation, and the attention and interest shown was truly remarkable. In the afternoon all the boys were marched to the railway station where they visited the Canadian Forestry Association's Exhibit Car.