

tinuous on our part to enlarge upon the qualifications of our valued friend and colleague, Mr. Struthers, but we may be permitted to give expression to our conviction that no man, under the peculiar difficulties of the position, could have guided its affairs with greater success and efficiency. Certainly no one could have devoted himself to the work with more unsparing energy, zeal and high sense of duty, and there are very few who could have brought to its discharge the same experience, judgment, tact, firmness and practical common sense as Mr. Struthers has displayed during his tenure of office. He has, in fact, shown himself to be a man eminently well equipped for his arduous and trying post, and under his management the Farm Home has accomplished splendid results. The Spring party of the year 1888 contained the first detachment of youths for the Farm Home, numbering forty-nine, and from that date to the present time about 1,200 lads have passed through the Institution, most of whom have turned out creditably and well.



Boarding-Out.

DURING the years 1890 and 1891 the field lay fallow in the girls' department on account of changes in the staff and other circumstances, but large parties of boys arrived at the usual intervals, and in 1891 we commenced our Boarding-Out System, that has since become such a valuable and important auxiliary of the general scheme. Up to that year twelve was the recognized limit of age, and, in fact, very few boys were sent out under fourteen. At length Dr. Barnardo resolved to try the experiment of extending to Canada the plan of Boarding-Out that had been adopted in England many years previously, and had yielded the most satisfactory results. Under this system, boys who would otherwise have remained under training in the English Homes until they reached the age of fourteen or fif-

teen, would be sent out at seven, eight or nine years of age, and boarded at the expense of the Institutions in respectable, carefully selected country homes, where they would remain until they were old enough to become self-supporting. They would thus, in preference to receiving their training and education in large English Institutions, grow up in Canadian farm households, and be taught in Canadian country schools. It was believed that by thus beginning life in Canada at a comparatively tender age, the little lads would more quickly and naturally adapt themselves to the altered condition of their surroundings, that they would have the advantage in their upbringing of family life and home as opposed to institutional training, and have their earliest interests and experiences associated with Canadian farm life. The system was begun as an experiment with a few little lads sent out in the late Autumn of 1891. It was decided to select our foster-homes in the Muskoka district, partly because we considered it advisable to confine the Boarding-Out work to one locality, and chiefly because, from the healthfulness of the climate and the character of the settlers, we could find in no other district so suitable a "nursery-ground" for our little colonists.



OUR Boarding-Out System has long passed Active Supervision.

During the twelve years that have elapsed since we placed our first little boarders in foster-homes, over two thousand children have been provided for in this way. Cases of ill-usage have been of the rarest occurrence. The children have thriven amazingly, and developed in intelligence, physical condition and general healthfulness. They are well fed, clothed and housed. There has been marvelously little sickness or attainment of any kind, school attendance has been well enforced, and, in fact, the