

in a position of actual or impending destitution to be eligible for admission to the Homes, but in the vast number of cases the Homes have stepped in between them and the street, and have rescued them on the threshold of what would otherwise have been lives of adventure on the street. How this is so is easily imagined by those who are at all familiar with the conditions of life among the British working classes. The widow and family or the orphaned children of an English labourer or mechanic too often find themselves plunged by his death into a condition of hopeless poverty and want, without any blame or disparagement attaching either to themselves or to him. The process by which the home is broken up, and by which gradually, often after a brave but hopeless struggle, the family succumb to the cruel pressure of want is a very oft told tale to those engaged or interested in philanthropic work. The casual ward, the common lodging house, the street must be the ultimate fate of those so situated but for such institutions as Dr. Barnardo's, but thanks to these great movements, children under such circumstances are sought after and rescued, and are thus prevented from joining the ranks of the vagrant and vicious classes. Surely even those who are most prejudiced against Child Immigration would find it hard to justify the contention that the door should be closed in the face of those whose only fault is that they are poor and have been in want, and on this ground to refuse to allow them the chance of raising their position, and earning an honest and respectable livelihood.

Furthermore, statistics abundantly establish our claim that amongst the large numbers that Dr. Barnardo has placed in the Dominion, we have experienced a remarkable immunity from disease or serious failures of health, and further that an exceedingly small percentage have been committed for crime or have lapsed into criminal or vicious courses. The full details as to the latter have been already furnished to the Department, and it will suffice to say, that less than one per cent. have been convicted of crime, while the death rate and health statistics will compare favourably with those of any class of people in the Dominion. It would suggest itself that if it had not been so, and if any large number of the children sent out by philanthropic individuals or societies failed to become good citizens, it would have become apparent to those among whom for the past twenty-five years these young people have found their homes, in whose families they have grown up and intermarried, and who have had the fullest possible experience of them, good, bad and indifferent, and that as a result there would have ceased to be a desire on the part of the farmers to employ or give homes to such a class. We find on the contrary that there is a demand five or six times in excess of the supply; that for a party arriving at the end of March, applications to the full number have been received early in February, and that to secure the services of a "Home" boy or girl, farmers are willing to take an amount of trouble that would be inconceivable if it were not that they have excellent reason to anticipate from their experience in the past that the young person will be such as to be a help and benefit to them. We sometimes hear that this is simply greed for cheap labour, and a desire to obtain help at less than its fair market value. Certainly no one will accuse the Canadian farmer of not looking after his interests in such a matter as the hiring of labour, or of being a bad hand at a bargain, and if the boys were sent out unfriended and unprotected to make their own arrangements there would often be cases in which they would be taken advantage of. They are not thus left, however. No boy is ever placed with a farmer without an agreement being entered into and signed. This agreement is simple in form and shorn as far as possible of legal verbiage or intricacies, but it provides for the boy being engaged for a certain definite length of time, for his being boarded, clothed, lodged, cared for and looked after, that his attendance at church and Sunday school and at day school, if his age requires, shall be promoted by his employer and that he shall be paid wages at a stated rate per month, or per year, or in a lump sum at the end of a term of years, as we consider his age, strength and capabilities justly and fairly entitle him to receive in accordance with the current rate of wages in the country. We are careful not to demand from a farmer an amount of wage for a boy that would necessitate his working beyond his size and strength in order to fairly earn, but, as far as in us lies, we strive, and, I venture to think, strive successfully, to secure that our boys are reasonably and fairly paid for their services. Needless to say our views of what a boy should receive do not always accord with those of his employer, and many weary hours are spent every month in negotiation, personally or by letter, but as the result I have abundant justification in assuring you that the young people under our charge are not underpaid or taken advantage of, and if "cheap," that is, underpaid labour, were the sole or principal object of the farmers of the Dominion in taking our boys and girls, they would long since have discovered that they were failing in its accomplishment.

This subject of wages, and what I have said upon it, leads to the general question of the supervision of the children after being placed out, than which nothing is more imperatively essential, or more surely affects the success of any scheme of child immigration. With all deference I venture to submit that the Department is called upon by the dictates both of policy and humanity to allow no individual or institution to bring to this country and place out young children without requiring that the persons who bring them out shall be made responsible for visiting and looking after them, and that with a view to this they shall establish and maintain a "Home" or

institution to which it shall be possible for children to return and be taken in, if from any circumstances they should fail to remain in their situations. Dr. Barnardo has three such institutions in the Dominion at the present time, one for girls at Peterboro', one for boys in Toronto, and the third, an Industrial Farm for older lads and young men, near Russell in the Province of Manitoba. If any boy or girl should fail physically or morally, it is known to both the child and its guardian that there is a place where such child may return as to its home, so that there is no pretext or necessity for its wandering about or becoming chargeable to the charitable institutions of the country, any more than a child who has parents living in the country. To do further justice to the interests of children placed out, a large and continuous correspondence is necessary. They and their employers must be encouraged to write freely and regularly, and such letters will always supply matter for anxious and careful consideration on the part of any one honestly doing their duty in the capacity of guardian to these young people. And last and perhaps even most important I would venture to urge that a regular and systematic visitation is an absolutely necessary feature of any properly conducted work of child immigration. Without it there can never be really satisfactory assurance that a child is being kindly and properly treated, and moreover, numberless opportunities are missed of influencing a boy or girl in the right direction, of restraining them from wrong and foolish courses and of promoting pleasant and harmonious relations between them and their employers. With the knowledge that in the event of trouble of any kind there is a home open for his reception, finding himself in occasional receipt of letters conveying, it is hoped, kindly and judicious advice, and receiving a visit annually or semi-annually from someone who invites his confidence and comes to look after his interests, no child can feel neglected, and no case of ill-usage or hardship can pass unnoticed and unredressed, and I would repeat that a system of child immigration thus administered safeguards the country to the fullest extent from being in any shape or way burdened with the care or charge of the young immigrants. In our own experience, I am happy to say, cases of ill-treatment or cruelty on the part of employers are extremely rare. That it might be otherwise if the children were not carefully looked after, I will not deny, but as it is I can only bear grateful testimony to the general consideration and kindness which our young people receive at the hands of the farmers of the Dominion.

The class of farmers who chiefly employ them may be divided into three—first, young beginners who not being in a position to find employment for a man can profitably use the services of a boy to assist them—secondly, elderly people whose own families have been started in life, and thirdly, large farmers employing adult labor but requiring the services of a boy to run errands and do light chores about the house and buildings.

It would be hard to conceive what the country would gain by depriving either one of these three classes of supply of boy help which at present they so much appreciate.

In the case of the first class the boys often remain for years growing up and developing with the development and improvement of the new farm and treated and looked upon by the "boss" more as a brother than an employee. With old people the children often find those who are almost more than parents, and against the suggestions we sometimes hear as to the boys being overworked and imposed upon, we can point to numberless instances of children who have been adopted and provided for with a generosity and liberality that nothing but genuine affection could inspire. Not a few boys, now grown to manhood, are well established on farms of their own upon which they were originally "set up" by the farmers with whom they were placed on their first arrival in the country. Of course such cases as these do not figure in the usual newspaper references to the work which generally take as their text some isolated case of crime or misdemeanor committed by a juvenile immigrant perhaps under great provocation, and very likely in participation with with native delinquents, to whom, of course, no ungenerous censure is to be meted out. In this connection I would point out what seems to me an especially satisfactory feature in the results of child immigration, and that is the very large percentage of them as compared with other immigrants, who remain permanently upon the land and directly assist in the agricultural development of the Dominion. I feel sure that I am well within the mark in saying that of those under our care fully eighty-five per cent. are permanently and definitely established on the land, making "two potatoes grow where one grew before" and in doing so, adding, as I think we may fairly claim, to the wealth and resources of the country. In the province of Ontario our boys largely supply the place of farmers' sons and farm hands who have migrated westward, and as far as can be judged from present indications, this westward movement will supply homes and openings for them for many years to come. In filling these openings we contend that they neither displace or unfairly compete with any other class of labour, and that their loss would be severely felt and would prejudicially affect the interests of the farming community.

May I express in conclusion my conviction that this question needs only a fair hearing in the Dominion to remove the prejudice that at present exists, and in certain quarters is industriously fostered against it. It is inconceivable that if it can be shown, as I feel sure it can, that by means of the enterprises of Dr. Barnardo and others, thousands of young people whose only fault is that they have been in need and want, can be benefitted and established in life, that a legitimate demand for labour among

the agricultural community can be supplied, and that a useful and deserving class can be added to the population of the Dominion, that any measures should be taken to discourage it, and that the argument that "England should take care of its own poor" should be applied to these boys and girls to their exclusion from this country; and, while there are openings for them here, where without injury or detriment to any class of the community they may enter upon useful and honourable careers, it is impossible to believe that the Government would seek by legislation or otherwise, to frustrate the efforts of those who are seeking to aid them, and would prefer to cast them back into lives of pauperism and dependence.

WHICH WON THE PRIZE?

TWO NARRATIVES OF THE VOYAGE IN THE SARDINIAN.

The prize offered during the voyage out of the last party of boys for the best narrative of the trip was awarded to the writer of one of the following:

No. 1.

I have pleasure in describing the voyage to Canada of our boys. We left Stepney Causeway, London, at 7 o'clock, Thursday, June 7th, and journeyed to St. Pancras station in brakes; we left there at 3.45 a.m. and the Home band played as we departed. We arrived in Liverpool at 2.30 p.m., and at once went on board the good ship Sardinian which is to take us to Canada. At 5.30 p.m. we steamed slowly down the river Mersey passing the old New Brighton Fort and the new one opposite it, later we passed the bar, the Crosby and the Formby lightships. When we got out of the river we began to inspect our new quarters which we found to be very pleasant. We soon came in sight of Ireland, where we could see the green fields, a very different sight to London. Later on we dropped anchor at Londonderry where we took on board the mails for the different parts of Canada. There was another Allan Line steamer at Londonderry named Hibernian for Liverpool, also an Anchor Line boat which started away before us, but went a different route to the one we took. We soon lost sight of it.

We have a very pleasant time of it, we have nearly all the deck to ourselves and we have the very best of food. We rise in the morning at 7 o'clock, breakfast at 8 a.m., dinner at 12 noon, tea at 5 p.m. and retire at 8 p.m. On Tuesday it was rough and most of us were seasick, but the next day it was calm again. On Wednesday evening we sighted the first iceberg, and on Thursday morning there were several more about the ship. On Thursday night we had a concert which came off very well; and on Thursday and Friday we saw several whales. I forgot to say that on Thursday we saw a large cattle steamer. Our captain signalled to her and she signalled back to us, and was soon lost to sight, and on Saturday morning we had land on our port side when we came on deck.

We are now sailing up the river St. Lawrence and by Sunday morning we hope to arrive at Quebec, where we will take the train to Toronto, Ontario, and the bigger lads to Manitoba. So we will have to bid good bye again before we get to our respective places.

No. 2.

It was a bright sunny afternoon on the 27th of June when the good ship Sardinian started on her long voyage to Quebec with a party of 200 boys from Dr. Barnardo's homes and many other passengers. It was about six o'clock when she started from Liverpool. Of course I did not expect to see much but I was very happy because it was the first time I had ever been on the water. There was not much to see going out of Liverpool, but I noticed a couple of pretty things going along, one was North Fort. The cannons looked very nice from the distance. We did not notice much more until we got to the Isle of Man. Then we went into Lough Foyle, when we saw some very nice land which I think was Ireland. We made a stop at Moville to take on the mails and a few natives. There was another of the Allan Line vessels in front called the Hibernian and another belonging to the Anchor Line called the Circassian. The Circassian started just before us and went in a different direction.

We started off from Moville and made our way for the Atlantic. The scenery was very beautiful going but when we got in the Atlantic we did not see any sights. We had very good weather. On Sunday we had a very rough day. I was very sick, but I am thankful I got over that all right and got about on deck. We passed Labrador and Newfoundland, seeing a couple of lighthouses on the way and a lot of icebergs, as well as a couple of whales and a few fishing boats. We passed a place called Anticosti and that looked nice.

We had very good meals and a good bed to sleep in. We passed Prince Edward Island which looked very nice.

We hope to land safely on Sunday. This is all I have to say about the voyage. And I thank Mr. Owen and Mr. Slater for the way I got treated on the ship.

AN EPIGRAPH.—The following stanza has been carved on a tombstone in Burlington, Iowa:—

Beneath this stone our baby lays,
He neither cries nor hollers;
He lived just one-and-twenty days,
And cost us forty dollars.