

desires could be obtained here, morally, religiously and domestically, far better than in the best schools of any union, for here they mix with the children of the country without any distinction of birth, country or class.

We, in Canada, feel justly proud of our school system; the whole country is divided into school sections, in which the law obliges a school to be maintained free to all people, and all children residing in such section between the ages of seven and fifteen are obliged to attend a large portion of the year. It is sometimes difficult to enforce the law, but persons obtaining children of Miss Rye, are always in such position that the law can reach them without producing any hardship, and there is every inducement for the trustees to enforce such law.

Mr. Doyle also says, that girls, especially between the ages of eight and ten, should have some preliminary domestic training if possible in Canadian homes. Now this is just what Miss Rye is doing, only in a much better way. If, as Mr. Doyle suggests, the arrangement is only to be temporary, without any reference to the ulterior usefulness he so much objects to, it would necessitate a payment in money for the board and teaching. This would be nothing less than a mercenary affair; it would lessen the childrens' motives to obedience, and the guardians to a conscientious discharge of their duties. Besides this, from an extensive knowledge of Ontario, I know that such homes could not be found, for though plenty of persons are willing to care for, and train a child for future usefulness, none but such as vice had reduced to poverty could be found that would undertake the charge for such money compensation as the Poor Law Boards are accustomed to pay in Britain.

Mr. Doyle considers that inspection is the *sine qua non* for success in regard to this work; like the great apostle—he magnifies his office. My connection with the work as one of the guardians, has brought me much in contact with the children in their new homes, and I am personally acquainted with over one hundred children settled in this locality, and I have only known one who has expressed a wish to return to England, and that was to see friends. Many miles have I travelled in looking up cases where complaints have been made, but the facts which, when enquired into, as Mr. Doyle also found, did not warrant the charges. But the closest inspection will not always prevent cases of wrong doing, one of which I will mention. This is that of a girl described by Mr. Doyle as A. McM., and visited by him three times, and who expressed himself satisfied with the case. Yet, in spite of this thorough inspection made by your model inspector, the case is one of the few we have to record in the list of man's wickedness and woman's frailty. There is no doubt any staff of regularly appointed paid inspectors would be the greatest curse that could befall the children, for it would shut the best homes in Canada to them—for such would never place themselves under the surveillance of any Government official. Mr. Doyle must know this, and therefore, I presume, urges it as the best means of throwing cold water on the work.

We do not consider the children from the industrial schools as the most desirable to have, or most likely to succeed in life, especially if they have been long under such training, for though they may learn to read and write, the affections and sympathies are not cultivated; this is inseparable from the system of keeping and teaching children in large masses, but it is none the less crushing to the better part of their natures, and does an injury to the child that a power to read and write ill compensates for.

We, in Canada, who feel so strong an interest in all that occurs in "our Fatherland," have long listened with a deep sympathy to the oft-repeated question: "What shall we do with our pauper children?" and now when a woman (who was also the first to tell of the tidings of a risen Saviour) has told of a way by which these little ones may be rescued from an almost helpless condition, and offered at least a fair chance in the race of life—would deeply deplore any adverse counsel that would defeat so good, so great, and so holy a work.

I remain, Sir, Yours faithfully,

ROBERT N. BALL,

*Justice of the Peace.*

Honourable Selater Booth,

President of the Local Government Board, Whitehall.