

children of blemished character or physically unsound, or by neglecting the duty and responsibility that we maintain rests upon all engaged in the work of child immigration, to watch closely and carefully over their young proteges after their arrival in the country until they are well on their feet and can without fear be left to take their affairs into their own hands. The Minister, in moving the second reading, seems to have paid a very generous and kindly tribute to the merits of Dr. Barnardo's work and the deserving character of many of his young people, and we gratefully appreciate this act of justice and courtesy, the more so as such different measure is too frequently meted out to us. Among politicians we fear it is much too often taken into account that we are not a political factor. We pull no wires, and there is not at present a "Barnardo vote" to reckon with in the constituencies. We are considered therefore a safe object of attack, and if anyone else can be propitiated or any purpose served by a blow at us there is the comfortable feeling that we have no means of hitting back. Colonel Gibson has resisted the temptation to do this, and although he has evidently lent his ear very considerably to those whose aim it is to injure our reputation and to hamper our efforts, he has at the same time shown a desire to hold the scales of justice evenly, and to approach the subject in a fair and statesmanlike spirit.

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We have to offer our sincere congratulations to the large number of boys whose first terms of employment will expire on the first of April, and who will then more especially than ever be considered as started in life. We have seen no reason to change our belief in the wisdom of making these long engagements in the case of young boys, that is those under fourteen or fifteen years of age. The lads who are now completing their engagements are but in few cases over seventeen years of age, and we claim for them that their position is such that boys of that age in any rank of life may well envy. They have acquired a practical knowledge and experience of the healthiest and the most independent business in the world; generally speaking they have been taught habits of industry and application; and they have now a hundred dollars in the bank of their own earnings as a reserve fund to fall back upon in case of necessity and as a nest-egg for future savings. Our three, four and five-year engagements are always made to end on the first of April, and this year there is a very long list of "agreements expiring." We congratulate the boys whose names appear upon it, both because they have, by the fact that they have faithfully served their employers for the terms of their engagements, proved themselves to possess the qualities that will ensure them further success in the country, and also because they are now launched in life under the most favourable circumstances, and have before them the prospect of making a position for themselves in a country where there is room and to spare for all who are steady and industrious, to achieve independence and prosperity. Perhaps we may further congratulate the boys whose engagements are now expiring because they have in most cases qualified themselves to receive Dr. Barnardo's medal for "good conduct and length of service," but this we shall have more to say upon when the time comes for awarding these distinctions and publishing our "roll of honour."

Alfred B. Owen.

Having given to Ontario eight years of steady industry, William Thomas has decided to extend his field of effort, and is talking of "going west" with a view to taking up land on his own account.

NOTES FROM THE MANITOBA FARM MANAGER.



NUMBER of years ago the writer made a trip with dogs and flat sleighs or toboggans, in the dead of winter, to Norway House, an old and important post of the Hudson's Bay Company, down toward the great bay or inland sea of the same name; and leaving Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, the party found some two feet of snow on the prairies over which they had, for the greater portion of the distance, to travel before reaching Lake Winnipeg. This thick snow covering made travel difficult, and serious were the expressed apprehensions made by the "mooneas," greenhorns, of the expedition, as to what would be encountered before the flag staff of the historic fort should come into view. Snow shoes were, as a matter of course, necessary over the southern portion of the journey, but to the surprise of most of the party, before one hundred and fifty miles had been covered, these articles were strapped to the sleighs and good footing was found for both men and dogs right away into the iron-barred gates of the white fort where the Union Jack and the ensign of the great Company waved side by side.

The snow in this part of the country was not then more than ten inches deep on the level, and the officer in charge of the district informed us that it was rarely much deeper, proving beyond doubt the contention of those gentlemen who are favouring the early construction of a railway to the Hudson's Bay that no fears need be entertained as to the possibility of operating the line through the winter months should it be constructed.

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The trip above referred to was taken many years ago by your Manitoba correspondent, and terminated in quite the opposite manner from an expedition he has just completed by rail, from Winnipeg southward; for in this last journey, leaving Winnipeg and the country generally under a reasonable covering of snow only, the trains of the Canadian Pacific Railway running on time, and business in no manner interfered with by the weather, he came on into Dakota where the accumulated fall from numerous very severe storms was being blown about in a manner rarely ever seen in the more favoured British Province to the north of parallel forty-nine.

It was reported that all branch lines of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railways were abandoned; business was brought to a standstill, owing to the fact that sleigh roads had practically gone out of existence; and some very large sized travellers' tales were laid before the writer, one of the most amusing story-tellers stating that in a town he had just visited the mayor was lost while out walking over the drifted streets devising plans for tunnelling the town. A search party was at once sent out and at last came upon a hole in the snow up to which were found the tracks of the chief magistrate. Further examination proved this aperture to be the opening of a chimney in one of the vacant dwellings, into which the unfortunate official had fallen. A meeting of the city council was called and an appropriation voted, to be used for paying the cost of digging out the unhappy gentleman. However, as the signature of the mayor to all expenditure warrants was required, this humane action could not be carried out, and until the genial March sun displaces the snow that little town, so the amusing prevaricator informed the writer, will of necessity be without a chief for its board of aldermen. A very good western story, indeed, but from the appearance of nearly all the stations passed through such an accident might occur in any one of them.

Arriving at St. Paul it was found that for hours the street railways had been in great difficulties, and it was not till Central Wisconsin was reached that the limits of the snow belt were found. From the above notes our young men in Ontario, who are in search of facts regarding the climate of Manitoba and the North-West, and particularly the winter conditions, can draw conclusions as to the comparative comfort of the settler who often has a considerable distance to draw his fuel, as in the bare, bleak plains of the Dakotas, or on locations in the more sheltered portions of Western Canada.

The next point of interest to all young people who wish to be well informed upon the wonders of the world, both natural and artificial, on the journey, is the city of Chicago, the site of which in the year 1820 was practically a swamp. Ten years later a trading post, known as Fort Dearborn, had been established, and the entire accommodation for the embryo city, which now numbers over one and one half million people, consisted of twelve houses. In 1833 it is recorded that the last bear was shot at a spot now the corner of Market and Jackson streets in the centre of the great commercial metropolis. The post office equipment at this time was furnished by nailing old boot legs to the walls of the building honored as the repository for the United States mails of the district, and the high official who presided over the distribution of the welcome correspondence from the regions of civilization must have felt himself a sort of business Santa Claus, filling the boot-legs of his enterprising children in lieu of their stockings.

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Chicago has always done things on a grand scale, and when in October, 1871, old Mrs. O'Leary, a milk woman in the suburbs, permitted her cow to upset a lighted lantern and thus set fire to the city, there began the greatest conflagration the world has ever witnessed, 18,000 buildings being destroyed, with contents valued at \$200,000,000 (two hundred million). Phoenix like, however, this wonderful city arose from the ashes, and where stood low-roofed and mean structures of wood in the days of the Irish dairy woman, now stand magnificent buildings of steel, terra cotta and stone, a wonder to visitors from all parts of the world. Having a few hours to spare in Chicago your correspondent visited a typical building of the city, the Masonic Temple, a structure twenty-one stories in height, and after ascending to the roof by one of the eighteen swift elevators running between floors at a speed of nine miles per hour, he was informed that he was 302 feet above the street. On clear days the Michigan coast, fifty-eight miles away, is said to be discernible, and taken altogether the view from the top of this immense pile is thrilling in the extreme and not easily forgotten.

Chicago, a wonderful human aggregation, good and bad, in which, as is always the rule, the bad are most in evidence, is a city all travellers should visit, and one in which no intelligent visitor can fail to be interested. However, as a place of happy and peaceful residence it certainly has its drawbacks, and the writer is pleased to be again on the road for the better governed, if less presumptuous, cities of our own country; and after passing two delightful days in Toronto with Mr. Davis, at 214 Farley Avenue, where matters institutional are ever on the go; communing for a time with Mr. Vipond, our Managing Editor, sped on to Ottawa to be present at the opening of the eighth parliament of the Dominion of Canada, a gathering in which all loyal Canadians ever show a deep interest.

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The lads, particularly, of Dr. Barnardo's colony, who will soon be eligible and on the list of free and independent electors, should