

who were here and to those who were not able to accept our invitation, but who, we hope, will be with us on the same occasion in future years.

I rejoice to be able to report a very great improvement in the health of our beloved friend and chief, Dr. Barnardo. After a period of entire rest and cessation from work he has been able to return once more to his post, and to take the active direction of the affairs of the Institutions. I convey this news to our readers with the deepest thankfulness and satisfaction, but I wish we could convey at the same time to Dr. Barnardo himself a word of entreaty not to disregard the admonitions of his friends and medical advisors, by again overtaxing his newly restored strength. The amount of work Dr. Barnardo has accomplished of late years in the shape of correspondence and public meetings, besides the immediate direction of affairs, big and little, in connection with his gigantic and widespread philanthropic enterprises is appalling to contemplate, and the mental strain involved such as no brain or body could long endure. There seems a risk of his forgetting the warning he has received in his late very severe illness, and I fear he altogether underrates the necessity of sparing himself and avoiding over exertion and mental excitement. Unfortunately, those who know him best, know best how difficult it is for him to be content to rest on his oars even for a brief season, but there are few lives that the world could less afford to lose at the present time, and in the name of his boys in Canada, on whose behalf I write, we would urge him to greater care and precaution.

Times in England, I am glad to say, seem to be gradually but steadily improving. We hear of many lines of business in which there is renewed activity and there is undoubtedly a great deal more employment for working people than there was a year ago. At the same time, the struggle for existence among the poorer classes in London, Liverpool, and other great cities and towns, is and always will be cruel and heart-rending. I often think that our boys do not half appreciate the advantages of their position in Canada. It is true their lot is not one of ease or luxury. They are not permitted to eat the bread of idleness, and work, and hard work, is the order of their lives, but they experience nothing of the want, wretchedness and destitution that the poor in England are so often and so constantly face to face with, and the dark shadow of pauperism and the workhouse does not overhang their lives. Within the past two or three years times have been hard for Canadian farmers, but where is the lad working on a Canadian farm who has gone without a meal or shelter for the night? Wages have in many localities been reduced, and there has not been the constant and ready demand for men and boys that we have known in past years, but where is there one of our boys who has been willing to work that has had to seek in vain for employment whereby he could decently maintain himself?

I believe the day is happily still far distant when in the country districts of Canada the supply of labour will be appreciably in excess of the demand. There will always be the lazy and shiftless, the men who are always "looking for work," and whose horror it is to find it, and unhappily the problem of dealing with the tramp, the vagrant, and the loafer is not as well understood in America as in England. In England we believe we have in our system of poor relief, and in the provisions of our Poor Law, arrived at something like a successful solution of the problem how to relieve genuine want and distress, and at the same time repres-

begging and vagrancy and to guard against imposture. The tramp nuisance may yet become so intolerable in Canada that vigorous measures on the lines of English experience may have to be adopted for its repression, but apart from the professional loafers and vagrants, none are living lives of enforced idleness, and our boys may congratulate themselves that their lot has been cast where they can count with certainty that while health and strength are given them, they will find a demand for their labour at a fair price, and a prospect of making for themselves a respectable position in the future.

It is our knowledge of the advantages of their present position, and of the contrast between the conditions here and in England, that leads us so systematically to discourage the idea that some few boys have of returning to England. This idea is begotten in some of them simply by a restless desire for change, in others by the very natural wish to be within reach of relatives and friends, but with scarcely an exception I believe that a return to England would be a disastrous step to almost any one of those who have written or spoken to us on the subject. A visit to friends may be all right, but our urgent and emphatic advice to all who may be contemplating anything of the kind is to think a great many times before they put the ocean between themselves and the advantages they now enjoy, and if they cannot be happy without taking a trip to the land of their birth to let nothing induce them to start without a return ticket in their pockets.

We are expecting to have another party before long, and the 24th of October is the date fixed for our sailing from Liverpool. We shall be glad to receive applications for boys from this October party, and also for the few bright, sturdy, little chaps, of twelve and thirteen years of age, who are left unplaced from our last party. The latter have almost all come from country homes in England, and are as fine a lot of boys as we have ever had, so that we can recommend them with the fullest confidence to people wishing to take boys of this age. It is sometimes suggested that the fall of the year is hardly a desirable season in which to place boys, but our experience teaches us otherwise. A farmer who takes a boy at the end of March or beginning of April, or later on in hay time or harvest, has often to sacrifice valuable time in teaching the new comer the first rudiments of his work. During the winter months, on the contrary, there is plenty of time for a boy to become accustomed to the routine of the place, to learn to handle horses, and to help with the stock, so that when the spring work comes on he is capable of making himself of useful service. We are, therefore, disposed to advocate farmers taking our boys in the fall, and if any share our views, and would like us to place boys with them, we shall be glad to receive their applications.

Alfred B. Owen.

The ladies in charge of our Girls' Home at Peterboro' will be glad to receive applications for some of the bright, bonnie, little lassies who are still unplaced from the last party. There are a number there, between ten and fourteen years of age, and any farmer's wife disposed to offer a good home to a little girl of this age, will do well to place herself as soon as possible in communication with Miss Code, the Secretary of the Home in Peterboro'.

SOME OF THE MEN OF THE WORLD.

In spite of all that has been done within the last quarter of a century to advance the physical and intellectual welfare of the "young man," appearances would indicate that the day of handing over the direction of the world's affairs to him is far distant. Look around upon the venerable figures of those who are filling foremost places in the various countries of the world, and whose whole lives have been devoted to unceasing activity and the strain incidental to public life.

The Queen, who still takes an active part in the trying functions which are required of England's sovereign, has reached her seventy-seventh year.

The present Pope is over eighty years of age, and exercises with wonderful skill the influence with which he is endowed as supreme head of the Roman Catholic Church. Bismarck, until less than three years ago the director of the German Empire he created, is almost of the same age. So is Mr Gladstone, who, although he has now retired from active political life, devotes his days to study with the ardour of a young collegian preparing for his exams.

The late Sir John A. Macdonald, for many years premier of Canada, was 76 when he died, and only a few months before his death he



SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL,
Premier of Canada.

led his party through the turmoil of the most vigorously fought campaign Canada had ever seen. His immediate successor, Sir John Abbott, was over 70, and Sir Mackenzie Bowell was 72 years old when he undertook the arduous duties of premiership; this notwithstanding,

he recently made an extensive tour into the distant Provinces of the North-West and British Columbia, travelling a distance of over 3000 miles, 600 of which were traversed by the aid of horses and waggons.

Sir Mackenzie was not born to a heritage of family riches, his parents being in humble circumstances when they left England for Canada at the time Canada's present premier was nine years old. He soon commenced to contribute to the family purse, starting life, while still a young boy, as a "printer's devil." In due course he became an expert compositor, but left this department of newspaper making to enter the ranks of journalism. From journalism to politics the way is very easy, and into politics Mackenzie Bowell drifted, with the result that today, after serving his country faithfully and well in many capacities, he holds the highest position it is in the power of the people of Canada to bestow upon one of their fellow-citizens, and his devotion to his country and the Empire has been further recognized by the Sovereign, who bestowed upon him the honour of knighthood.

In connection with the premiership of Sir Mackenzie Bowell should be remembered the remarkable fact that he is the fourth who has held that exalted position during the existence of the present Parliament. Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Abbott we have already alluded to. The latter's immediate successor was Sir John Thompson, whose sudden death at Wind-