

earned in Manitoba. We refer to George Fisher, whose portrait appears herewith. Mr. Owen will be able to testify that George Fisher had his ups and downs while resident in Ontario with a vengeance; however, George must have secretly taken up and clung to the watchword "nil desperandum," for he is without doubt now on the crest of the wave financially, and what is better still, bears a most enviable character among his associates for honesty, sobriety and good fellowship. Dr. Barnardo's enemies may snarl and attempt persecution against him in his Canadian work, but it will be many a day before a more satisfactory settler is brought to the Dominion from the over-crowded old world than the subject of our sketch. We feel sure that the readers of UPS AND DOWNS, without exception, will join in wishing success and happiness to George Fisher.

During the month several enterprises have been set on foot, offering employment to the lads of a nature differing from farm work. The building of a much-needed piggery stands among the most important of these extensions. The setting up of a modern aero-motor on the red barn will place Mr. Blythe in a position to crush his grain very cheaply, without calling upon the power of the little engine at the creamery; and a few lads are now and will be employed preparing for and erecting the long-looked-for telephone line from the Home to Russell railway station.

Really the event of the month, however, and one which caused some considerable amusement, was the election on the first of August, by ballot, of the two candidates entitled to prizes awarded by the management. The first notification as to the election was given the people resident at the Home by the posting of the following notice:—

"ELECTION NOTICE.

"After the return of the manager from the east, on the 1st of August, an election contest will take place, the lad obtaining the greatest number of votes to receive a watch valued at \$5.00, the candidate receiving the next largest vote, a pocket knife valued at \$1.00. Mr. M. E. Davis is hereby appointed Returning Officer, and Mr. William Blythe and Mr. Robert Gray will revise and certify to the list of those entitled to vote on polling day.

"Qualifications for successful candidates are cleanliness, industry, freedom from the use of bad language, and generally good consistent Christianlike conduct.

"Ballot papers will be supplied on polling day, and the election will take place in the Mess Room. Names of both voters and candidates may be struck off the list by the manager, if sufficient evidence is laid before him to warrant such procedure.

"By ORDER.

"Dr. Barnardo's Home, June 29, 1896."

Naturally an exciting contest followed, flaming posters were to be seen set out by bright-coloured Union Jacks, calling upon the independent electors to "poll for Vickers the people's man"; "plump for Hodgetts the Brumm"; "Cockneys vote for Carr," etc., etc. As the fight went on the excitement grew more intense, and little knots of voters could be seen morning, noon and night being addressed by enthusiastic orators setting forth the claims of their respective candidates.

It is not thought much bribery was used, but there is a latent fear that some of the partisan workers resorted to intimidation to bring about their ends. The first day of August came at last, ballots containing the names of the candidates were prepared, the Voters' List was duly certified, the polling booth was opened, and the fun began promptly at 12.30 p.m., the closing of the box taking place one half-hour after. At 6 p.m., the Returning Officer in the

presence of the manager, counted the ballots, and it was found that Hodgetts, the Brumm, stood at the head of the poll, having received 25 votes; sturdy old Carr came next with 24 votes; and on his heels came a candidate who will yet be heard from, Vickers, with 23. On the next visit of the Chaplain, Mr. Gill, the management persuaded him to present the prizes, which he was kind enough to do, accompanying the action with a most appropriate address. The award of first prize, no doubt, came into worthy hands, and it is hoped the watch will keep the recipient up to the mark and never fail him in time of need.

On the 14th, at noon, another contingent of lads direct from London, came steaming into Russell station, by special train over the Manitoba and North-Western Railway. This party left England on the good steamer "Scotsman," of the Dominion Line, on Thursday, July 30th; reached Quebec on Saturday, August 8th; took passage in special tourist car 1027, and piloted by the writer reached its destination without mishap. As the question is often asked regarding the antecedents of our lads, and as it may be of interest to our readers who are sometimes employing them to know their origin by counties, we will take from the record the following particulars: Among 30 lads, six hail from London; five from Liverpool; three from Bristol; two from Birmingham; one from Manchester; one from Brighton. The balance are from small towns and country places, in the following counties: Yorkshire, three; Lancashire, three; Berkshire, one; Sussex, one; Derbyshire, one; Durham, one. Ireland and Wales each contributed one. So that the epithet so often cruelly hurled at our young fellows, "Waifs from the slums of London," would be as regards this particular party, and is in nearly every case, very much out of place, and about as much in accord with the fact as most of the stupid charges made against our Director's work by ignorant or evil-minded enemies.

A. S. Spink

OUR LITERARY AND MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

THIS month brings us to the close of the first session of our Literary and Mutual Improvement Society. Those who have been taking an active interest in this department of our journal will not have forgotten the course we laid out for ourselves and co-operators in our issue of March: six months' work together and then a summing up of the merits of the work done—of the various papers contributed by our friends; with a prize for the best paper written on any topic included in our syllabus; another prize for the boy whose papers in the aggregate had received the largest number of marks during the session; and a prize also for the little fellows, for the boy under fifteen who obtained the highest number of marks during the six months.

The essays or papers published in this number are included in our first session, and before our next issue appears we shall have performed that very delicate task of selecting what we deem to be the "best" where all is "good." So that all being well our October number will contain the names and, we hope, the portraits of our prize-winners. Letters from a number of our friends show that interest in the Mutual Improvement Society is not confined to those taking an active part in the work thereof; but that many of those who, for reasons known only to themselves, refrain from entering the ranks of contributors, find considerable pleasure in

reading the productions and noting the progress of the less diffident ones. We feel that our experiment has not been altogether void of success; that a little, at least, has been done in the work of mutual improvement, and this encourages us to commence a second session which we will do with our next issue.

We want every boy who has taken part in the work so far, whether his papers have been published or not, not only to continue an active "improver," but to make it his special business to induce another boy to "fall into line." In this manner the ranks of our contributors will increase rapidly, and will contain such a variety of abilities that there will be no dearth of ideas for adding to the interest of this feature of our journal. Last month Frederick Beazley came to the front with a plea for those with musical proclivities, and at his suggestion we included "The Influence of Music" in our topics for September. This result has been some very enthusiastic letters from friends who would like to see Frederick's idea take definite shape.

It is interesting to note that the inclusion of "The Influence of Music" in our syllabus has brought us an excellent contribution from one of our "boys" living at so great a distance from us as Bloomfield, Iowa. George Ward is the friend in question. He came from England as long ago as June, 1883; but it will be seen that neither lapse of time nor change of residence to a foreign country has quenched his interest in his old Home and all that pertains thereto. Owing to its arrival at a late hour, when all our space is filled, George's essay is held over until our next issue.

During the month orders for the penny publications have flowed in freely, not a few coming from "our girls." These orders we expect to be able to fill within a few days of the publication of this issue, as a large consignment of the books is now on its way from England. Those of our friends who wish to procure any of the volumes should write us at once. Large as the consignment is for which we are waiting, we expect there will be but very few volumes left after the departure of those boys who visit the Home during the Exhibition.

We publish elsewhere the list of Penny Publications.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE HARDEST DAY'S WORK I HAVE DONE IN CANADA.

LEVI BONE. Age 22. Party '88.

Exactly one month ago, Mr. F. W. Wilson being called away on business in Montreal, I was left in charge of his business here with three men, two boys and fruit pickers as fruit came in season, to oversee, and 210 acres of growing and grown crops to look after; consisting of 36 acres of Alsike clover; 50 acres of hay; 45 acres of beans; 15 acres of corn; potatoes and other things too numerous to mention; and about 100 acres of orchard comprising some 50 acres of apples, 25 of pears, 25 of plums, and peaches, fruit continually coming in season; part of the orchard being young is in crop now.

I thought that it would not be very hard to do my own work as well as to see that others did theirs also. Well, all went very well, until 15 acres of barley needed drawing in and needed all hands, and at the same time 25 tons of baled hay must be drawn to the station, having been sold previous to this. My only plan was to draw the hay myself, and then having this done the next thing was the threshing. Well, as you all are aware, it takes all the hands, or better all the men that can easily be got to thresh, and this being a very busy time, farmers drawing in their oats, I could not get enough within two men of the right quantity. With the threshing machine in barn and engine steaming and whistling outside (this being the signal for neighbours to come who have been asked beforehand) we start to thresh; the outside of stacks being wet after very heavy storms of

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