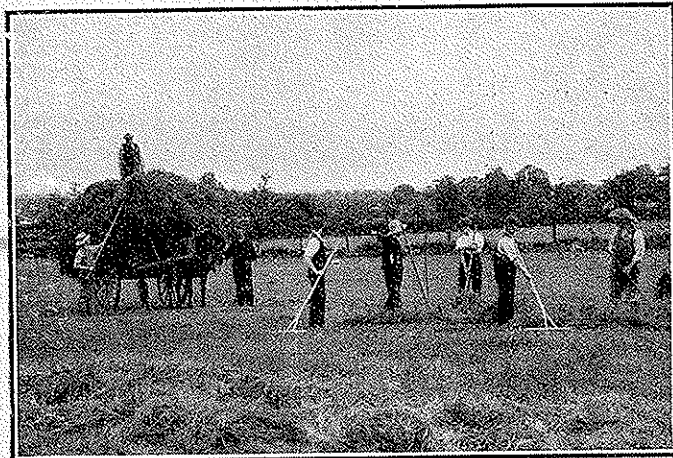


OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT.



Hempstead C.A. Farm Training.

THE redistribution of population is the pressing problem which England and the Empire have now to face. Here, we are overcrowded—one person to the acre—in Australia and Canada, a little over one to the square mile. Here we have the idle hand, and there the idle land. The idle hand, which is often the empty hand, can be set to develop the untold wealth of the empty lands of our great Dominions.

It is the realization that these two problems solve one another, that has caused the British Government to pass the Empire Settlement Act, whereby for the next fourteen years, the sum of £3,000,000 will be set aside annually to promote and foster emigration and Empire Settlement.

So far, the response to the act of the Home Government has not been enthusiastic on the part of the Dominions—Australia is the only Dominion at present which has met these advances—and even there the opposition by the Labour Party is such that the Commonwealth Government find it hard to meet the British Government in the same liberal spirit. The practical outcome is—the passage rate for the agricultural or domestic worker is reduced to £24, as against £26—the full fare being £40—and

to approved settlers, half of this will be advanced as a loan. This is only £2 better than before the passing of the Act. But even the sum of £12 is far too much for the average boy or man who has been out of work for months. Australia, above all things, needs good women, but the £12 rate and the £12 loan is again too much. The Church Army can do a great work for the Empire if we are able in urgent cases to advance in whole or in part the necessary £12 passage money; there is also £3 required for landing money. To send these

people, who are an ever increasing liability here, to the Dominions, is good finance. Here they have little chance of improving their position—they remain out of work for months, they become demoralized and disheartened, they form the habit of loafing, and run the danger of coming on the rates. If made of good material, and willing to work on the land or in service, the Church Army Overseas Department can link them up with friends and work in the Dominions, and instead of being a liability, they become an asset both to the new land and the old. It is computed that every settler in Australia is a purchaser of British goods to the extent of £12 per annum—so that a family would support British industries to the extent of £60 per annum.

There are many lads of good character and physique who day by day are sinking lower, degenerating, starving, in some cases sleeping out and unemployed for months, but the spark of manhood is still bright—they can be rescued and sent to the Dominions for £15 apiece—or, if you add clothes, £20.

We want to do more than this—some of these lads want testing as to character and ability. Some have a knowledge of farming—for agriculture is so dead in this land that they are out of work. We want to start a Hostel for these lads—a “Wash and Brush

Up Hostel," where they will, in one month or so, get a short and sharp course—we want to see if they have it in them to make good. If so, we will, with your aid, help them. Emigration work is the most encouraging of all social welfare work. It is not a case only of keeping a man's head above water, for in this work you drag him out of the overwhelming flood, and set him firmly on his feet. We are not giving temporary relief, but setting a man up for life, at a very small cost comparatively.

For the last eleven years the Church Army has trained lads, chiefly for Australia, at the Hempstead Farm, Essex. In this direction we may claim to have done more than any other voluntary Society. So favourably has this work impressed the Australian Authorities, that we are asked to extend the work. We want immediately two more farms, so that instead of training sixty boys in a month, we may train 180. If we can obtain and equip these farms, we can send to Australia sixty tested boys a month. To do this we want large and liberal support from the public. To train, equip and ship a boy costs at least £50.

The Secretary of the Settlers' League, Perth, W.A., writes: "The demand for your boys is exceedingly great, and the Committee have not the slightest difficulty in placing them immediately on arrival, in good homes."

The Premier of Queensland has asked the Church Army to send fifty farm trained boys a month. We have not at present the means or the machinery. Our Hempstead Training Farm was given to us, and we have trained there over 500 lads. Recently the donor went to the Farm, and was intensely pleased with all he saw, and the happiness of the boys. The Hon. Director, in thanking him, said: "This is better than growing turnips—it is making men."

Will some of those agriculturists who are now running their farms at a loss, give the Church Army the chance of growing a noble crop of the "Sons of Empire" on their farms?

LADS WE HAVE HELPED.

No. 21.—Nine in family, boy unemployed. Now in Western Australia. On same farm for eighteen months. Receives 20/- a week,

with board. Very well and happy. Sends money home.

No. 24.—Undesirable home. After working one year on a farm in Western Australia went contracting and clearing. In six weeks earned £29, and all working material to the good.

No. 59.—Son of an actress. Mother ill and out of work. The boy has stuck to his job up country in Western Australia and writes "I am proud of being a bushman, and I don't want my young brother to be a 'pen pusher.'"

No. 60.—Ten in family. Two brothers helped. His "boss" gave him a pony for Christmas, and now has nominated the rest of the family (eight) to Western Australia.

Nos. 61 and 62.—These brothers are both doing well. One made £60 in a month by clearing virgin country. Other brothers now joining him.

THE S.O.S. (SAVE OUR SONS) CALL FOR HELP

No. 1,479.—Fully trained farm hand, now in London. Undesirable home. £20 will set this boy on his feet in Australia.

No. 1,655.—Orphan. Fully trained farm hand, unable to find employment. Sleeping on Embankment. Temporarily in Church Army Home. £20 will save this boy.

Boy aged 19.—Too old for Australian Schemes. Out of work. Can ride, drive, break in horses, and understands motors. Typical case of the idle hand being the empty hand. Australia House will accept at the £12 rate and £3 landing money, and £5 would be required for clothes. Who will help?

No. 1,592.—Public School boy, aged fifteen. Father served, since dead. Family in distressed circumstances. £19 would place the boy under the Dreadnought Scheme for New South Wales, under which he would get a free passage, three months' training on a farm in N.S.W., and would be placed in a good position.

Cheques should be sent to the Rev. Canon PUGH, Hon. Director of Emigration, and made payable to Prebendary Carlile, D.D., Hon. Chief Secretary, 55 Bryanston Street, W. 1. and crossed "Barclays, a/c Church Army."