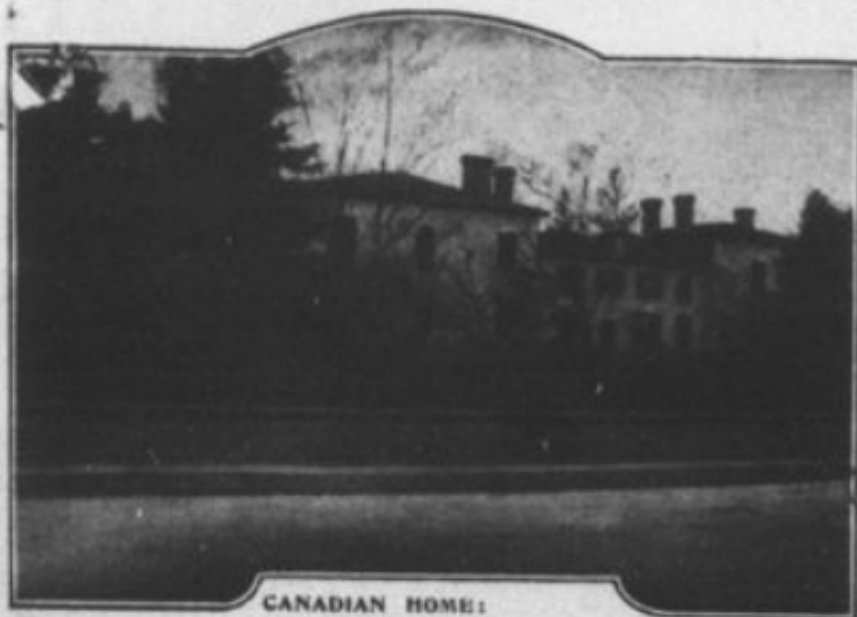


535174



CANADIAN HOME:
HESPELER, ONTARIO.

A ———
**Realized
Dream**

"He placeth the solitary in families"

THE COOMBE,
HESPELER,
ONTARIO.

EMIGRATION RECEIVING HOME FOR BOYS & GIRLS
FROM DUBLIN.

383725

THE
Coombe
Home,

HESPELER, ONTARIO.



TOWN OF GUELPH.

FOR some years we have been wishing for a Home of our own in Canada. One of the greatest difficulties in our work of late years has been to get suitable openings in Ireland for all our boys. Some of them came to us long ago, and we have had them through several stages. When they first came they were so small that they were put into the Babies' Home at Dollymount. When they were about five or six years old they passed on to the Birds' Nest, or perhaps the Elliott Home, and then at ten they entered the last course in our training at the Boys' Home in the Coombe or Grand Canal Street. At the age of fourteen a boy must leave us, and we want to do something very good for him, to put his foot upon the lowest rung of a ladder that he may climb himself. This is, at the present time, an increasing

difficulty in Ireland, though not an impossibility, and we are quite satisfied that the greater number should remain here. Some *must* stay, the parents wish it, or they cannot pass the doctor, and for other reasons they may not suit for Canada; but for many others of our boys we know of no openings here to compare with the prospects in Canada. In fact, given a boy good and steady, hard-working and intelligent, success is certain.

We went out to Canada to see for ourselves, and came home more than convinced that this is the providential opening, and that the finger of God is pointing us to that Western Land.

It was in October, 1904, that my sister and I went out, as I have they were getting on, and if Canada offered equal prospects for girls as we were assured it did for the boys. We were much pleased with all we saw, and the testimony of one of the girls, "I am as happy, as happy can be, and my people are as kind to me as can be," was by no means



THE GARDEN.

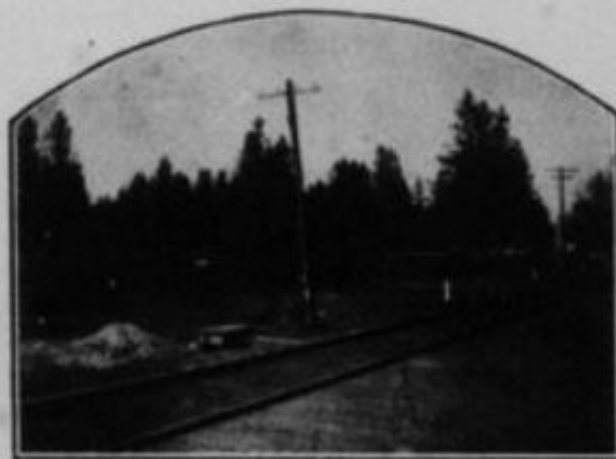
said, "to see for ourselves." Our immediate desire was to visit the girls whom we had sent out in the previous spring, under the kind care of Mr. and Mrs. Merry, of Miss MacPherson's Homes. One lady had given us the needed money, *i.e.*, £10 each, and twelve girls went out. We very much wished to see how

singular. This was the first party of girls that we ever sent out. We hope it will not be the last, though we may say here that we are much more anxious to send boys.

We found that it took longer than we had counted upon to pay these visits, so we agreed that my sister should stay for the winter in Canada, and that I should come home.

I left Canada in November with—what they say you should always have when you rise from your meals—a keen appetite for more, and we parted with a hope—almost a promise—of meeting again in Canada in April, 1905. This hope was happily realized. |

His own name sake, to lead us and guide us. We thought it would be a good plan for Mr. Tebbs to come out and see for himself, and so we started in April, 1905, and went straight to Stratford to Miss MacPherson's Home.



RAILWAY STATION AT END OF LAWN.

In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Tebbs, who were in charge of the Coombe Boys' Home and Mission, had expressed their willingness to undertake the charge of a Home in Canada, should God open the way.

We were praying that God would show us the way clearly, and trusting in Him, for



FRONT OF COOMBE.

The first news that greeted us at the Stratford Station was brought by my sister saying that Mr. Merry had seen a house in Hespeler that he said would exactly suit our purpose, and he wished us to go and see it as soon as possible.

We went to see it, and sure enough, we liked it very much. It was a beautiful stone house—if it had been built for us it could not have been more suitable—standing in ten acres of land. We feared it would be much too expensive for us, as we had only a limited sum of money at our disposal; but when we went to Toronto to see about the business we found the property was offered for just the sum

of money we could manage.

After consultation with experienced friends, we decided to purchase, and the Canadians who were asked about it all agreed that we had got a wonderful bargain.

After the house was purchased there was a great deal to be done in the way of furnishing, heating, lighting, and, in short, preparing it for the reception of the large family of boys and girls. We feel certain that God who has begun this good work will continue it, and will put into the hearts of some of His people the will to lend a helping hand.

Our chief desire now is to be able to send out a large party of boys in the spring. It costs

about £10 a head. What a small sum to start a boy in life ! If you ask, "How many boys can you send?" the answer is, "As many as we can afford." The boys are quite ready, longing to go—attracted, not by what we have said, but by the glowing accounts in the letters of their former companions.

We consider that to send these boys out in the spring will do a double good—by doing the very best for the boys who are fortunate enough to go, and by leaving vacancies at home for other boys needing home and teaching, of which "the streets of the city are full." Please do not lay down this paper without pondering over the matter, and thinking what you can do to help even one of these little boys to the land of Peace and Plenty.



PEEP OF TOWN FROM COOMBE LAWN.

ELLEN S. SMYLY

We have called this Home in Hespeler "The Coombe," in memory of the old Coombe in "the Liberties" of Dublin, from which many of the boys have come. We call it "The old Coombe," as it will keep its Jubilee this year.



SIDE VIEW.

the work of receiving and placing Irish Protestant boys on the farms of Ontario. The gathering took the form of a house warming, and all the leading citizens of Hespeler were present to show their interest in this philanthropic movement. Mr. J. J. Kelso, of Toronto, presided, and formally dedicated the building. They were met together, he said, in the interests of a great work for orphan and destitute children that was broadly philanthropic, Christian and imperialistic. The children were greatly benefited and their prospects in life greatly enhanced by transportation to Ontario, while at the same time this country was enriched with a valuable addition to its population. The children were the most valuable asset of any country, and while

Guelph "Daily Mercury," Dec. 14th, 1905.

CHILDREN'S HOME OPENED,

WITH APPROPRIATE CEREMONIES AT HESPELER
YESTERDAY.

An event of great interest to the people of Hespeler took place last night, when the Ontario Receiving Home of the Smyly Orphans Homes of Dublin, Ireland, was formally opened. The building is the old Jacob Hespeler residence, so well known in this part of the country, and under the direction of Superintendent George W. Tebbs, it has been improved and renovated for

we ought to fully protect and care for our native born boys and girls, there was also room for the overplus of the old land. He explained the care taken by the Ontario Government to see that only the best class of children were brought to this country, and the precautions taken to ensure good homes and treatment after their arrival. Many striking instances were related of prominent and successful Canadians who came as poor boys from Great Britain, and by industry and thrift had advanced to positions of high honor.

After a number of musical selections, Mr. Tebbs gave an illustrated address on the work of the Smyly Homes in Dublin. Views were shown of the children in the Elliott in Townsend St., the Boys' Home on Canal St., the Coombe Boys' Home and the Birds' Nest at Kingstown. Heretofore a number of the children have been placed out in Ontario homes through Mr. W. H. Merry of Stratford, and the excellent success that had attended the experiment led to the purchase of the Hespeler homestead. It will be known as "The Coombe," and every spring a party of trained boys and girls will be received from Dublin, to be brought up as Canadian citizens.

Short addresses were given by Rev. N. Duthie,



ANOTHER SIDE.



ANOTHER SIDE.

Rev. F. W. Cook and Rev. Jas. Lediard. At the conclusion of the meeting refreshments were served and the house thrown open for inspection.

From "*The Canadian People*," by D. M. DUNCAN.

Ontario's chief industry is agriculture; her forest resources, especially in the North, include an abundance of pine, beech, birch, maple, elm, &c., her inestimable mineral wealth comprises gold, silver, nickel, copper, salt, iron, mica, coal, petroleum, &c. Most of her seventeen cities and one hundred and twenty towns are great manufacturing centres, and the products of her factories, farms, forests and mines are greatly

prized by the sister provinces, the motherland, and the United States. At the various great expositions held recently, educational exhibits from Ontario, her fruit, dairy products, grain, live stock, woods, minerals, and manufactures, have won many of the highest awards, and yet this banner province of the Dominion is in infancy. There are still vast undeveloped resources which will furnish prosperous homes to the millions who with brain, brawn and heart seek to be worthy of their glorious heritage!

A young nation with her life
Still beating in her breast,
A noble future in her eyes,
The Britain of the West.



Extract from "*The Toronto Globe*," Christmas Number, 1905.

Canada bids all welcome to this land of Plenty and Peace. For the strength of their sinews, for the courage of their hearts, for the faith of their souls, here are the rewards of a life worth while. The doors are open wide. The welcome word is strong and free—from the heart of the East and the West the word is free and strong that bids the stranger welcome to his home. For there is plenty here for half a hundred million more who know the arts of peace. The only closed doors are those a man shuts upon himself.



J. J. KELSO,

SUPERINTENDENT,

NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT
CHILDREN,
ONTARIO.

DUBLIN BOY HARROWING IN CANADA.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS,

TORONTO,

Dec. 13, 1905.

DEAR MISS SMYLY,

I have just returned from Hespeler, where I assisted in the pleasant and historic function of declaring the "Coombe" opened for the reception and care of Irish children. The place was crowded with the best people of the town, and everyone was delighted with the evening's programme. I can assure you, from personal observation, that you are most fortunate in having two such workers as Mr. and Mrs. Tebbs to represent you in this Province. They are splendidly qualified in every way.

With kind regards and good wishes for the Christmas season, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

J. J. KELSO.

Coombe Boys' Home.

Committee:

MRS. FISHE, Edenmore, Park Avenue, Sydney Parade.

HON. LADY SMYLY, 4 Merrion-square, Dublin.

REV. CHARLES WELLAND, Kingstown.

MISS D. STAPLES, 23 Kildare-street.

MISS MAGEE, Belgrave-square.

THE MISSES E. & A. SMYLY, 21 Grattan-st., Dublin.

MISS HUDSON, 51 Wellington-road.

Don. Secretary and Treasurer:

MISS ELLEN S. SMYLY, 21 Grattan-street,
Dublin.

Don. Medical Attendant:

H. J. BEWLEY, Esq., M.D., Assistant Physician to the
Adelaide Hospital.

Bankers:

PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND,
College-street, Dublin.

Sources:

<http://heritage.canadiana.ca/>

Immigration Branch (RG 76, Volume 353, File 383725)

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