

A FEW OF OUR ADDRESSES :

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Head Office :

MIGRATION HOUSE,
3, UPPER THAMES STREET, LONDON, E.C. 4.

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Branch Offices :

GLASGOW—203, Hope Street.
LIVERPOOL—12, Pembroke Place.
BELFAST—57, Upper Arthur Street.
ABERDEEN—26, Castle Street.
SOUTHAMPTON—50, High Street.

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WELLINGTON—205, Cuba Street.

GENERAL BOOTH'S

1925

*Scheme
for Boys*

All about it—

Selection : Training : Outfit :
Voyage : Reception :
Settlement : After-care : Cost.

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Emigration/
Resettlement

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IN ARMY
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON.

GENERAL BOOTH'S SCHEME FOR BOYS.

The Scheme in brief provides for the selection of boys now unemployed or engaged in "blind alley" occupations or in odd jobs in the United Kingdom and transplanting them to work in the Overseas Dominions of the Empire after a short course of agricultural training on the Army's Farms at Hadleigh, Essex.

I

- (a) The Boys are usually from 14 to 19 years of age.
- (b) In practically every case the boy is personally seen and reported upon by a Salvation Army Officer, before he is accepted for Training.
- (c) Certain forms, including consent of parents, Medical Certificate and two references as to character and industry, etc., are required in each case, and the "Selection Council" comprised of experienced Salvation Army Officers belonging to the Emigration and Colonization Department, advise as to the suitability or otherwise of the applicant.
- (d) Health, suitability, character, general capacity and adaptability, are first considerations, and in selection neither Finance, Religion nor the lack of these are allowed a place, as the great purpose of the Scheme is to give the right lad a chance, even if he has neither a penny, a friend nor a religious persuasion.

II

- (a) Usually the applicant or his friends pay the travelling expenses incurred in proceeding to Hadleigh, Essex, to enter Training. In some cases where the lad is coming a long distance, or where he or his friends are unable to raise the costs of travelling to Hadleigh, the Department assists, or advances the required amount.
- (b) It is generally arranged for batches of boys to reach Hadleigh each Thursday afternoon and so commence their Training together, and as there is usually a group leaving every week for Overseas, the outgoing group of trained lads makes room for the advance of all in training, leaving a place at the bottom of the ladder for the entry of each Thursday's new arrivals.

- (c) Each lad is expected on entering Training to bring with him his Sunday suit, with sufficient working clothes and boots to last him during the term of Training. With the majority this works out all right, but in a small number of deserving cases and where real need arises the Department assists as required. On satisfactory completion of the course of Training, a new outfit is provided prior to embarkation.

III

- (a) The arrangement as between The Salvation Army and the Overseas Settlement Department of the British Government Office is that the term of Training shall, as **Training.** a general rule, be limited to three months. Provision is made for exceptions to the rule where such are found necessary.

The progress of the pupils and the sailings of various groups for the different Dominions all have to be fitted in and naturally play a considerable part in deciding the termination of a lad's period of Training. In no case, however, is the term less than six weeks and not many exceed the three months.

- (b) An approved and carefully compiled Curriculum is in working and it not only includes lessons in the dairy, the stable and the piggeries, but it takes in the kitchen, with lessons in cooking, cleaning, scrubbing and much more, so that a lad is taught to "do for himself" and keep his own room tidy and sweet where such may be necessary.
- (c) It will readily be understood by all with any knowledge of Agriculture that expert Agriculturalists are not turned out in the time referred to. It is not, however, the purpose of the Scheme to produce fully qualified young farmers, or farm labourers, but rather to content ourselves with the teaching of the most elementary essentials of work on a farm.

Teaching a lad to harness, clean a horse and its stable, is carrying a town-bred boy a long way, even if it does not qualify him to handle a jibbing horse or break in a wild young colt.

Getting a young lad who wants to start life working on a farm, to sit down to milk a cow without springing to his feet at every switch of the cow's tail, is not making a dairy expert of him, but it is bringing him on the road to it.

Let it, therefore, be thoroughly understood that the General's Scheme in purpose and practice is just that of getting the lad "on the road to it." On the road to handle the team, the plough, the implements of the season, the cattle and calves, the pigs and the poultry, the dairy and its products and the crops as they ripen, for as yet he is only imbibing the idea, just rousing the partially dormant farming instinct and taking on the "land sense," but give him time and a chance and he will make good and show you what he can do.

- (d) The purpose of The General's Scheme is not, however, confined to rubbing off the fear of the cow's tail or of getting the lad used to going up to a horse's head, because an important plank in the programme is that of instilling high ideals as to character and conduct; teaching personal habits of cleanliness and behaviour such as will carry him far in life among his kinsmen Overseas.
- (e) He, too, is taught that to serve God and honour the King rank among the first essentials of a man's life. Thus it will be seen that while the term of Training is brief—perhaps too brief—and the curriculum is not aiming at the impossible, The Salvation Army is, however, putting first things in their rightful place and is building on a good and sound foundation with a view to a successful future for each lad.

The whole may well be regarded as an Educational Continuation Course of the first importance—securing as it does, a definite, tangible and satisfactory return on the investment of 8-10 years previous experience and education.

IV

A CERTIFICATE as to general health and fitness has to be obtained by each boy from the family doctor, or other local Medical Practitioner, before the Selection Council will recommend acceptance for Training. During the term of Training on the Hadleigh Colony each lad is again examined by the duly appointed Doctor of the Government **Medical Examination.** of the Dominion to which the lad intends to proceed. In a few cases boys fail to pass the second examination, but the percentage is small indeed.

V

AFTER the Officers of the Migration and Settlement Department of the Salvation Army have satisfied themselves that a lad will make good overseas and the Officers in charge of the Land Colony at Hadleigh have reported favourably on the

boy and the Doctors have passed him as medically fit, he is finally seen by the Government Representative of the Dominion for which he hopes to sail in a few days and his case fully and carefully considered from every stand-point. References, Medical reports, etc., are examined and the Government Representative finally settles for or against his emigrating to the Dominion of which he is the authorised agent. A refusal to grant the necessary permission to emigrate is not common, but does occur once in a while.

VI

THE General's Scheme provides for the sending of each lad off to the new land fully equipped in regard to general outfit, and to see the sun-browned, healthy lads from their Training on the land pass up the gangway of the ship rigged-out in their new suits, new boots, collars, ties, etc.,

Outfit. carrying their new suit cases all duly labelled for the voyage and containing their new under-clothing, slippers and sundries, is to feel that General Booth is sending overseas a fine lot of young lads whose arrival and future in the new land will do him and The Salvation Army great credit.

Thus are they equipped and ready to start work on arrival, though of course, subsequent wear and tear soon has to be provided for, but by this time the young settler is earning wages, and in a position to buy his own clothes for the replacing of that which he has either worn out or out-grown. In all this he will be advised and guided by the Salvation Army Officer, who is now his friend and adviser in the new land.

VII

EACH party of boys, whether a complete party in itself or forming a section of a larger party of mixed Emigrants going under the auspices of The Salvation Army, is accompanied across the sea by an experienced Officer of The Salvation Army, whose special business it is to look after the

The Voyage. welfare of the party under his charge. Lectures are arranged, Meetings are held, recreation catered for and, if it be a party proceeding to Australia via the Cape, a day ashore at Cape Town is one of the never-to-be-forgotten days

of the lads' lives, for the Army Officers at the Cape will have arranged a drive round the famous Table Mountain and made provision for meals ashore, providing grapes and other fruits in abundance.

A similar arrangement is made at Colombo, Ceylon, for our parties sailing by the Suez Canal route.

E'er leaving the ship the Conductor of the party will have secured permission for a special good-bye meeting at which the Captain of the boat, or some lady or gentleman of distinction, will have presented each lad with a Bible as a special farewell gift from General Booth, with an injunction to read it and be guided by its teaching in all his future life.

VIII

THE voyage ended and the new land reached does not mean to the Army's Emigration Boys what it means to so many emigrants, *viz.* feeling strange and left to paddle their own canoc or find their way as best they can.

**Arrival and
Settlement
Overseas.**

The Conductor will now transfer his responsibilities to the Army's Immigration Officers who have already received prior advice by letter and cable as to who comprise the party and what is required before the arrival of the ship. These Officers will have completed all the necessary arrangements for reception and placing, and each lad will be suitably settled with an approved farmer on a definite agreement and at a fair and fixed rate of wages.

The boy will be kept in touch with by correspondence, and periodical visits during the next two or three years. He will be urged to pay off as soon as possible any loan he may have had; advised as to what to do with his wages; encouraged to deposit his savings in the bank; asked occasionally as to whether he is writing home regularly, and generally fathered and protected until he is ready to stand strong and square on his own feet among men overseas and given to realise that he now has the making of his future in his own hands and must play the man to succeed.

Reports as to his progress, health, etc., will be made and sent half-yearly to the respective Headquarters.

In case of accident or serious illness the Army Officer will be at hand to negotiate with local hospital authorities as to admission, terms of payment and so forth.

With human nature as it is, there are bound to be a certain number of break-downs and misfits, but a boy who may, for any reason, be unhappy in his situation, has in the Officers (usually a married couple) appointed to overlook the settlement arrangements, friends at hand to whom he can write, telegraph, telephone or run to—being assured of sympathy and of a bed at any hour and at all times.

IX

HOME-sickness is a complaint which most of us, who have left behind the parental roof and care, have suffered from in a greater or lesser measure. We have found, too, that it recurs under certain conditions and at various points along life's road. We will not, therefore, be surprised to learn that some of the lads get attacks of it now and again. It comes on sometimes before they have been many hours at Hadleigh, and occasionally they have a real battle to settle down to the new conditions, but the Officers of the Colony kindly and tactfully help and encourage, with the result that the actual break-downs resulting, are few indeed. It will recur we may be sure when the seas roll strong and far between the lads in the new land and the loved ones in the old home.

It, therefore, becomes incumbent not only upon The Salvation Army Officer, but upon the relatives and friends who write to the boys and upon the employers and others who meet them from time to time to do all possible to encourage and cheer these lads in their occasional loneliness and to help them to win through and make a real success of life.

X

IT is somewhat difficult, in fact well nigh impossible, to lay down what might be termed a hard and fast rule controlling the financing of many of the cases. There are practically no two cases just the same. One lad, or his friends, are in a position to pay a fair portion of the costs, while another is able to

Finance. contribute the merest trifle or nothing at all. Of course, all are urged to pay the very most that they can towards the expenditure, which a little thought will show to be considerable.

The Army, however, endeavours to find a solution to every lad's problem and in this it is greatly helped by the agreements into which The General has entered with the Overseas Settlement Department, which provide for the Government making contributions towards the costs involved in Training, Outfitting, and transplanting the boys.

The net cost to Army Funds, over and above payments made by Governments, contributions from migrants and their friends, loan repayments, etc., is approximately £10 per boy.

The amount which a lad is expected to repay has *some* relation to the cost which his transplantation has involved, *e.g.*, the boy placed in Western Canada is required to repay more than a boy placed in Eastern Canada. It is the Army's plan however that while on the one hand no boy should be loaded with a loan, the repayment of which would be really burdensome; on the other hand, it is felt that a boy's self-respect will be maintained, and "thought for others" developed by a system which, for a period *never exceeding* in any case two years, calls upon him to make some small payment month by month, out of his wages. In fixing the amount to be repaid, we have not only considered the age of the boys but also the amount of Government assistance which we have received, and it always has definite relation to the boy's ability to pay. For our purposes we have mapped out the Empire in Zones. All boys placed within these Zones are expected to repay certain amounts—varying chiefly according to distance from the Homeland, and the amount of assistance received from Governments. Personal contributions made by the boys or their relatives are deducted from the amount repayable.

Generally the arrangements for repayments are as follows:—

During the first year after an allowance for clothes replenishments and pocket money, the balance is devoted to repayment of loan.

During the second year (so long as it may be necessary) half the wages are allocated to loan repayment.

In ordinary circumstances loans are fully repaid well within a two years' period.

Wages are usually paid by the farmers monthly—but it sometimes happens that adjustments are not made until the end of a season, but the boy's interests are always the subject of watchful care.

XI

ARRANGEMENTS have been made whereby a limited number of suitable lads ranging from 17 to 19 years of age can be accepted here for Training on The Salvation Army's Farm Colony at Putaruru, in New Zealand. The conditions regarding Selection, Medical Examination and Outfit, etc., are as for boys to be trained at Hadleigh.

**Training
Overseas.**

The term of Training is usually for six months, but this naturally depends much upon each lad's own industry and aptitude.

On the completion of Training at Putaruru the boys are placed with desirable farmers in New Zealand on suitable terms and fixed wages, and remain under the Army's care and protection as other boys do.

Negotiations are also proceeding for utilising the Army's Farm Training Schools in other parts of the Overseas Dominions in a similar manner.

Boys to be trained overseas are *NOT* given the usual training at Hadleigh although they are assembled there for examination and testing, prior to embarkation.

XII

No graver problem than that of the unemployed boy confronts this country at the present time. The spiritual, moral and physical wastage going on is indeed a blot on our civilisation.

The Scheme shows the Salvation Army—true to its traditions of social service—adapting itself in a peculiar way to present day conditions and harnessing its unique organisations in the Homeland and in His Majesty's Dominions overseas to "meet the need" of these boys and in this way serving God, King and Empire.

Correspondence is invited.

Further particulars and information concerning the respective Dominions may be had on application to the Secretary at Migration House, 3, Upper Thames Street, E.C.4, or at any of the Branch Offices and Agencies.



David Lamb

*Commissioner.
International Social Secretary.*

International Headquarters.
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