From "The Salvation Army Year Book" (year unknown)

THE ARMY'S MIGRATION WORK

As far back as forty years ago, the Army Founder was anxious to provide for third-class emigrants the forethought, comfort, and amenities which, at that time, were available only to the first-class passenger. Operations were then begun on a small scale. Later, in 1903, was inaugurated what is to-day the Migration and Settlement Department of The Army, about the work of which Commissioner David Lamb writes in the following article.

THE success achieved by the Migration and Settlement Department may be ascribed to the principles upon which the work is done. The need of the individual is the first consideration, also his or her mental and physical condition. Next it is ascertained whether there is reasonable prospect of the migrant succeeding overseas; for this the absorbing power of the Overseas Dominions is a determining factor. Then after-care of migrants is a responsibility which The Army feels morally bound to assume. Therefore it will be understood that no government or shipping company can possibly give such close personal attention to human needs.

Since the Great War emigration from the British Isles to the Overseas Dominions has been an uncertain quantity. Yet the numbers emigrated assume broad proportions. During the last seven years The Army has transplanted over 35,000.

Early in its career the Migration Department found it necessary to charter ships for Army-selected passengers. The first such—*Vancouver*—sailed for Canada, with over 1,000 emigrants, in 1905. The Founder, then in New Zealand, sent the passengers this message: 'God carry you safely to your new home. Fearlessly calculate upon hard work. Bravely meet difficulties. Do your duty by your families. Help your comrades. Make Canada a home that will be a credit to the Old Land. Put God first. Stand by The Army. Save your souls. Meet me in Heaven.' A Labour Bureau was opened on board; thus employment was secured for all before landing. The emigrants were met at different stations and distributed to their employers. Many similar sailings followed, concerning which an old handbill gives warning that no gambling will be permitted nor intoxicants sold on board.

The first vessel for Australia, with Army-selected passengers only, was the *Vedic*, which sailed last year with 700. Careful arrangements were made for the comfort and happiness of all throughout the voyage. When it was known that The Army was planning a special sailing, within a week there were enough applicants to fill the ship.

Last year the writer, who has directed the Department for some years, was invited by the British Association for the Advancement of Science to read a paper, at Leeds, on 'The Transplantation of Boys.' The Meeting was attended by many thinkers and students, and the paper aroused public recognition of the necessity to deal more strenuously with migration and settlement problems.

The Army specializes in training in elementary agriculture boys aged fourteen to nineteen, and since the inception of the General's Scheme (1923), more than 3,000 have been happily settled overseas. The Government training costs fifty shillings, or over, and The Army training only thirty shillings a week per head.

Careful recruitment, although expensive, contributes to successful settlement. The total boy applicants during two recent years equalled 20,624. After careful sifting, 1,667 boys were received for training, and the number that sailed was 1,519. But the system is justified, for the selected boys settle well. When replacing of boys is necessary, every care is taken to arrange this satisfactorily.

It is worthy of note, too, that of wellnigh 600 boys settled overseas in 1925, eighty-six per cent were known to be still on farms in December, 1926. The total cost of the transplantation of a boy averages about £60, including recruitment and selection, training, outfit, travelling expenses, and after-care for three years. Governments (home and overseas) co-operate in meeting or assisting with ocean passages, and, in some instances, other expenses. The net cost to Army funds is about £10 per head, and towards this the boys are expected to contribute when at work overseas.

It is an Army principle that beneficiaries should, according to their ability, make some contribution towards the cost of the services—spiritual and social—that The Army renders. The principle of repayments by boys engenders a spirit of independence, tends to self-respect, creates thought for others, and helps The Army to continue the good work. The Scheme limits the period over which repayments can be spread to a maximum of two years.

During 1927 members of the Migration Committee of the Royal Colonial Institute, with Sir Archibald Weigall (their chairman), by invitation of the General, visited Hadleigh. They investigated the thorough methods adopted in training lads in elementary agriculture. Mr. Edward Salmon, editor of 'United Empire,' writing on the visit, said: 'It was a privilege and an education to see The Salvation Army Migration Training Scheme actually in operation. From this corner in Essex go forth, regularly, contingents whose members will, one is confident, lend a useful hand in the great work of Empire development.'

The Army regards the migration and settlement of young women as of equal importance to that of boys. The density of the population of England and Wales, according to the last census, is higher than that of any other country (649 to the square mile), and there are approximately two million more females than males. Overseas, in many districts, men are in the majority; therefore The Army transplants larger numbers of young women. The work is being continually extended. Domestic service is found for these migrants, and The Army keeps in touch with them, supplying guidance if needed. In 1926, while nearly 1,000 boys were transplanted, nearly 2,000 young women were also transplanted.

There is more demand for 'home helps' than for domestic servants. In many middle-class respectable homes the domesticated woman, as distinct from a domestic servant, is welcomed as one of the family. Wages and conditions of labour are relatively much the same overseas as in the Homeland, but the life is healthier and freer, and there are many opportunities of home-building. Recent investigation shows that thirty per cent of a large and representative number of women were married within a few years of arrival.

Transplantation of widows and fatherless is another side of The Army's work that gives promising results. The widow with ten or twelve children is more easily settled than one with three or four, but all are welcome. We constantly receive letters of appreciation from widows. One writes: 'The Army did well for me. I have a beautiful place in Geelong, facing the delightful Corio Bay, a stone's-throw from the water. All is paid for. Have eleven boarders, and am doing well. Would not leave Australia now. My daughter Hilda is a nurse, Mary is at school, and the other girl will be coming from England in a few weeks.'

A family of three, who had known nothing of Salvation Army ideals and principles previously, attracted by the kindness and attention shown them, were all won for God. The mother, a widow, now gives her services as nurse in an Army Institution. Her daughter has passed through the Training Garrison, and is an Officer, and the son is a good Salvationist and a Bandsman in an Australian Corps.