

to seek out these children placing them in institutional "Homes" where they were sheltered, educated, and given Christian training.

Individuals such as Dr. Barnardo, Stephenson, Middlemore and others founded homes and successfully aroused public support for their work. The problem remained – what to do with these children? An idea originally developed in the 1850s was re-introduced. The dispersal of destitute, orphaned, and illegitimate children, first contemplated by some Poor Law Boards but rejected, was given another try. Miss Maria Rye's party of workhouse children in 1869, followed by Annie Macpherson's group, pioneered the movement of juveniles to Canada. Within twenty years there were as many as fifty agencies engaged in this work. Some transported only a few, while others brought a thousand children yearly.

The benefits of the dispersal system were obvious for the British. The cost of caring for these young children was great and it was compounded by the fact that younger "waifs" were constantly being brought into these homes. The cost of passage to Canada was far less expensive than the cost of one to fifteen years of institutional care in Britain. The lure of Canada's abundant agricultural land also provided an incentive since the children would be assured of employment, training, and eventually the opportunity to own property.

In Canada, distribution homes were established in centres across the country. Many Canadians enthusiastically endorsed the importation of juveniles. Farmers were the biggest supporters of the movement. Demand was so great that every year requests exceeded supply by ten times. While there were humanitarian and patriotic grounds for the acceptance of poor British children, the greatest incentive appears to have been the prospect of cheap labour. Politicians as well as farmers saw the need for workers in a young

growing country. What better immigrants were there than young people willing to work and able to adapt to a new land.

The treatment received by the immigrant children ran the gamut of human experience. Some were well-treated, accepted as part of the family. Others were considered to be on a level with hired help. A third group received cruel treatment at the hands of individuals who took advantage of unprotected children. There are cases of mistreatment so severe that children died as a result. Victorian attitudes towards children and child-rearing gradually gave way to the more conventional ideas of the twentieth century. This change

was reflected in the treatment of juvenile immigrants. More laws were passed to protect them, distinctions between pauper and private children were removed, and financial assistance for the sponsoring agencies was increased.

The movement of British juveniles to Canada provides fertile ground for future study. The historiography of juvenile immigration has benefitted from the current attention being paid to the theme of "The Child". One can only hope that additional investigation will continue beyond 1979.

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Young English immigrant girls, probably arrived on the same boat as the boys, and gathered by Dr. Barnardo's institute. Are they two groups of twins? (C 34838)

SOURCES IN MANUSCRIPTS FOR THE HISTORY OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The growth of interest in social history has been one of the formative influences on archival activity in the 1970s. At the Public Archives, the Manuscript Division has responded to the social historian's view that the goal of historical research is the study of society as a whole. They have done this through

a concerted effort to conserve the records of labour organizations and ethnic groups, as well as papers related to the history of women, sport, and most recently, children and young people. Once considered of secondary importance, as subjects distant from the mainstream of national development, research topics in these fields are increasing in popularity. This is largely as a result of the social historian's efforts to add a social dimension to Canadian historiography's traditional concern with the political and economic foundations of nationhood.