

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

Training Ship
"George L. Munro."

Child migration

Why were children sent to Canada in 1869-1913?



Key Stages 2-4 | Victorians 1850-1901, Early 20th Century 1901-1918

Lesson resource

Introduction

Old Bailey records reveal that thousands of children were transported to Australia as criminals between 1787 and 1868.

However, from 1869-1930, 80,000 children were forced to migrate to Canada. Behind this forced migration were individuals such as Maria Rye, Annie Macpherson, and Thomas Barnardo, and institutions such as the poor law unions, local government board, and the Home Office.

Use this lesson to find out why children were sent abroad in the period 1869-1913. What was the justification for doing this?

Suitable for:

KS 2 - 4

Time period:

Victorians 1850-1901, Early 20th Century 1901-1918

Connections to the Curriculum:

AQA GCSE History:
Thematic study: Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day

Key stage 3:
The development of the British Empire

Key stage 2: Significant People

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Teachers' notes

This lesson is designed to introduce pupils to different historical sources concerning child emigration schemes to Canada led by Maria Rye, Annie Macpherson and Thomas Barnardo. Through these records, students can explore the justification of these schemes at the time.

Students are introduced to the philanthropist Maria Rye and her child migration scheme via a cartoon and article extract created and written by satirist George Cruikshank in 1869. It is an opportunity to explore how Rye justified her plan and how Cruikshank opposed it.

The work of Annie Macpherson is examined through a series of extracts recording the experience of several children who were migrated to Canada. These are taken from records created by Macpherson 1872-74 and include notes of visits, short quotes from children's letters or statements from foster families.

Students can examine extracts from a Canadian Government Report on Immigration and Colonisation from 1874, which references both Rye and Macpherson and their leading critic, Andrew Doyle, a Local Government Board inspector who inquired into the Canadian migration schemes for workhouse children in 1874. The continued involvement of the Poor Law in such schemes is illustrated by a source from ten years later.

Publicity material is used as evidence to explain the activities of Dr Thomas Barnardo. Finally, two letters from Home Office records relating to a particular case of child migration in 1911 by Dr Barnardo are included.

If you wish, you could use the [Empire Builder's image](#)¹ at the top of the web page as a lesson 'starter' to introduce and discuss the topic of child migration.

To find out more regarding the social context for these children's lives you could also ask students to consider other sources. Students can explore some of the pauper letters that reflect life in the workhouse in our [Workhouse Voices Collection](#)² and sources in [Victorian Industrial Towns](#)³, a collection of documents that provide information about living conditions for the poorest in society, including newspapers, letters, reports, a census return and photographs.

Students can work in pairs or small groups to study each source and report back to the whole class to discuss the answers to the questions. Alternatively, they can work through the tasks independently. All sources are transcribed and difficult language defined in square brackets or glossaried at the end of the online transcript.

¹ https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COPY-1_315-B-_223_1911-Empire-Barnados-ad-1500px.jpg

² <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/workhouse-voices/>

³ <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/victorian-industrial-towns/>

Teachers' notes

In order to consider the theme of migration over time, students could also discuss the following extension questions relating to other developments:

- Can you explain the difference between migration and evacuation during the Second World War? (See [Evacuation to Canada](#)¹ and [Evacuation to Shropshire](#)².)
- Can you find out about the role of The Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB) who evacuated 2,664 British children to protect them from the threat of German invasion and enemy bombing?

Sources

- A cartoon and extract from a pamphlet on a proposal to send poor children to 1869, George Cruikshank © The Trustees of the British Museum.
- Extracts from a report entitled: 'Report as to the Children sent to Canada by the Bristol Incorporation of the Poor to Canada, under the protection of Miss Macpherson', 1874, Catalogue ref: MH 32/20.
- Extracts from a Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation, 1874 Catalogue ref: MH 32/20.
- Poster from the Poplar Poor Law Union in London listing children proposed for emigration to Canada, 12th September 1884, Catalogue ref: MH 12/7698.
- Extracts from publicity material produced by the charity Dr Barnardo's. The material covers emigration of girls and boys to Canada, 1913, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118 pgs. 2, 11.
- Letter from George Code, Honorary Secretary for Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes, Stepney, London to Mr. Rowe concerning his two daughters, 20 January 1911, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118/203442
- Rowe to Dr Barnardo about the plan to send his daughters to Canada, 22 January, 1911, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118/203442

¹ <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/evacuation-canada/>

² <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/evacuation-to-shropshire/>

Background

For thirty years from 1869 onwards, Maria Rye's agency brought 3,623 girls to Canada. The children were first sent to a reception centre in a converted court-house and jail at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, later called 'Our Western Home'. The children sent there were called 'Home children'. They were fostered by farming families, where they were destined to become domestic servants and farm workers. Some children were adopted within these families.

Out of the 1,100 girls Rye brought to Canada before 1875, 900 came from English poor-law unions, which sponsored their emigration. Workhouse girls had some form of education and were not the 'gutter children' she is pictured gathering up in the cartoon shown in this lesson.

For twenty years, Rye brought girls to Canada supported by Lord Shaftesbury and the public. She retired in 1895, after which her reception centres in Peckham (London) and Niagara were run by 'Church of England Incorporated Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays', known today as the Children's Society.

Another philanthropist, Annie Macpherson, set up her Home of Industry in Spitalfields, London, in 1869. It provided shelter, work, education and religious instruction to children. From this home she took groups to Canada who were first received at Bellville and others at Knowlton or Galt. Again, these children were later placed with families to work on farms and become domestic servants. According to information provided to the Canadian government, Macpherson brought out 2,000 children from 1870 onwards. Out of that total, 300 were girls and 1,700 were boys. This represented '350 from various workhouses and 1,650 from distressed and orphaned families or waifs gathered from the streets of London or other large cities'.

Andrew Doyle, a Local Government Board inspector, inquired into the Canadian migration schemes for workhouse children in 1874. His report, 'Boarded out to Canada: Report on Child migrants in 1874', concluded that they merely provided cheap labour for farmers in Canada. He was particularly disapproving of how children were placed in families and the lack of aftercare given by Rye's scheme. The Canadian Government justified their position and rejected the findings of Andrew Doyle.

Dr Thomas Barnardo also became a crucial figure in child migration. 30,000 children were sent to Canada from 1882 to 1939 from his homes. He saw it as an opportunity to help grow the population of the Empire. These children would settle, marry and have their own children thus contributing to the labour market and economy. However, the numbers sent to Canada declined with the impact of losses caused by First World War accompanying a fall in the birth rate.

It seems incredibly sad that the actual feelings of these child migrants were not considered at the time. They were taken away from all that was familiar and placed in a harsh physical environment, away from any family or people they knew. It is hard for us today to contemplate their reality. However, the letters used in this lesson that concerned the case of Mr Rowe and his daughters give us a glimpse into this world.

Both of Mr Rowe's children were placed in Dr Barnardo's Girls Village Home in Ilford in 1907 under

Background

the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act 1904. Their mother had died and their father had been sent to prison for neglecting his daughters on two occasions. His heartfelt plea failed to prevent their migration to Canada from Southampton in June 1911.

Tasks

Look at Source 1a

A cartoon from a pamphlet on a proposal to send poor children to the colonies. The large image on the front shows a clergyman piling urchins into a cart with a shovel, an elderly gentleman and a lady assisting him by sweeping little girls towards him, Miss Rye standing by the cart with a whip held in her hand, and the glass windows and ornate pillars of a gin palace beyond. 1869 © The Trustees of the British Museum.

- Why are people sweeping up children from the street in this cartoon?
- How has the cartoonist used different elements in the picture to attack the work of Maria Rye and her supporters? Comment on: the size/position of the figures, as well as the cart, whip, shovel, brushes, and language used in speech bubbles.
- Why do you think a 'Gin Palace' is shown in the picture?
- How is Christianity used to justify gathering up these children in the 3rd speech bubble from the left?
- What were the advantages for workhouse authorities and rate-payers if these 'gutter children' were removed from the streets?
- What is the meaning and significance of the title of the cartoon: 'Our gutter children'?

Look at Source 1b

Extracts from an article by George Cruickshank that appeared in a pamphlet accompanying the 'Our Gutter Children' cartoon, 1869 © The Trustees of the British Museum.

- What was Miss Maria Rye's plan for child emigration, according to this article?
- How had she tried to get support for it?
- How did she justify her proposal?
- Why did she only intend to send girls to Canada?
- What difficulties could these children face as a result of forced migration to Canada, according to the author of this article?
- What is George Cruickshank's opinion of the work of Maria Rye?
- Why do you think Cruickshank chose to express his views in the form of a cartoon as well?

Look at Source 2

Extracts from a report entitled: 'Report as to the Children sent to Canada by the Bristol Incorporation of the Poor to Canada, under the protection of Miss Macpherson', 1874. Catalogue ref: MH 32/20

- What do these extracts infer about the experience of children in Canada?
- How were girls and boys expected to behave and what can we learn about attitudes towards them?
- Are these attitudes and behaviours towards children different today?

Tasks

- How valuable are comments from the foster families recorded here?
- What do the extracts suggest about the way Annie Macpherson ran her business?

Look at Source 3a

Extracts from a Report of the Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation, 1874 Catalogue ref: MH 32/20.

- Who is Andrew Doyle?
- What is the subject of his report?
- Who has received this report?
- What is the attitude of the Canadian Government to the findings of the report?

Look at Source 3b

Extracts from a Report of the Proceeding of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation, 1874, Catalogue ref: MH 32/20.

- What 4 criticisms did Andrew Doyle make concerning Maria Rye and Annie Macpherson?
- Does he think that adopted children have benefited from the schemes?
- Doyle investigated 400 cases for his report. What was the total number of children brought to Canada by Rye and Macpherson?

Look at Source 3c

Extracts from a Report of the Proceeding of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation, 1874, Catalogue ref: MH 32/20.

This extract suggests that Doyle feels that these women were making money from their scheme. [Note: l means pounds, s means shillings, d means pence, stg means sterling, British money.]

- How does Doyle explain that Rye and MacPherson's schemes profited from migrating pauper children to Canada?
- What does Doyle feel about child migration according to this extract?

Look at Source 4

A poster from the Poplar Poor Law Union in London listing children proposed for emigration to Canada, 12th September 1884, Catalogue ref: MH 12/7698.

- Why is it proposed that these children should be sent to Canada?
- Why does the poster display their names and ages?

Tasks

- What is the age of the youngest child in the list?
- Why did Poplar Workhouse Union authorities support child migration?
- Why might rate payers support this scheme?
- What would be the disadvantages for the children facing emigration to Canada as result of this plan?
- Look at the date of this source, what does it reveal about child migration since criticisms made by Andrew Doyle referred to Source 3b & c?

Look at Source 5a

These are extracts from publicity material produced by the charity Dr Barnardo's. The material covers the emigration of girls and boys to Canada, 1913, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118 pgs. 2, 11.

- What does Dr Barnardos claim to achieve for boys like Jack in this source?
- How is the page design and layout used to show the aims and values of Dr Barnardos?
- Why do you think this source was produced?
- Who would be the audience for this source?

Look at Source 5b

These are extracts from publicity material produced by the charity Dr Barnardo's. The material covers the emigration of girls and boys to Canada, 1913, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118 pgs. 2, 11.

- What reason does Dr Barnardo's give for emigrating these girls and boys?
- How are they prepared for a life abroad?
- Why are these children described as possible 'Empire Builders'? [Also see image at the top of web page.]
- Comment on the language and tone used in Sources 5a & b.
- How different are attitudes today from this source towards:
 - (a) Education of girls and boys?
 - (b) Ideas around the term 'Empire'?

Look at Source 6

Letter from George Code, Honorary Secretary for Dr Barnardo's Children's Homes, Stepney, London to Mr. Rowe concerning his two daughters, 20 January 1911, Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118/203442

- Why has Mr. Rowe been sent this letter?
- What is the justification for the decision concerning Mr Rowe's daughters?
- What assumptions are made in the letter about how Mr Rowe might feel?
- Is there anything that shocks or surprises you about the tone of this letter?
- Why do you think letter is held in the Home Office collection at The National Archives?

Tasks

Look at Source 7

Mr. Rowe to Dr Barnardo's about the plan to send his daughters to Canada, 22 January, 1911.
Catalogue ref: HO 144/1118/203442

- Why does Mr Rowe not agree with this plan to send his daughters to Canada?
- What steps has he taken to try and prevent it?
- Why do you think he writes that 'I consider myself to have been punished quite enough'?
- Why do you think Mr Rowe was not raising his children?
- Can you use 4 words to describe the tone of his letter?

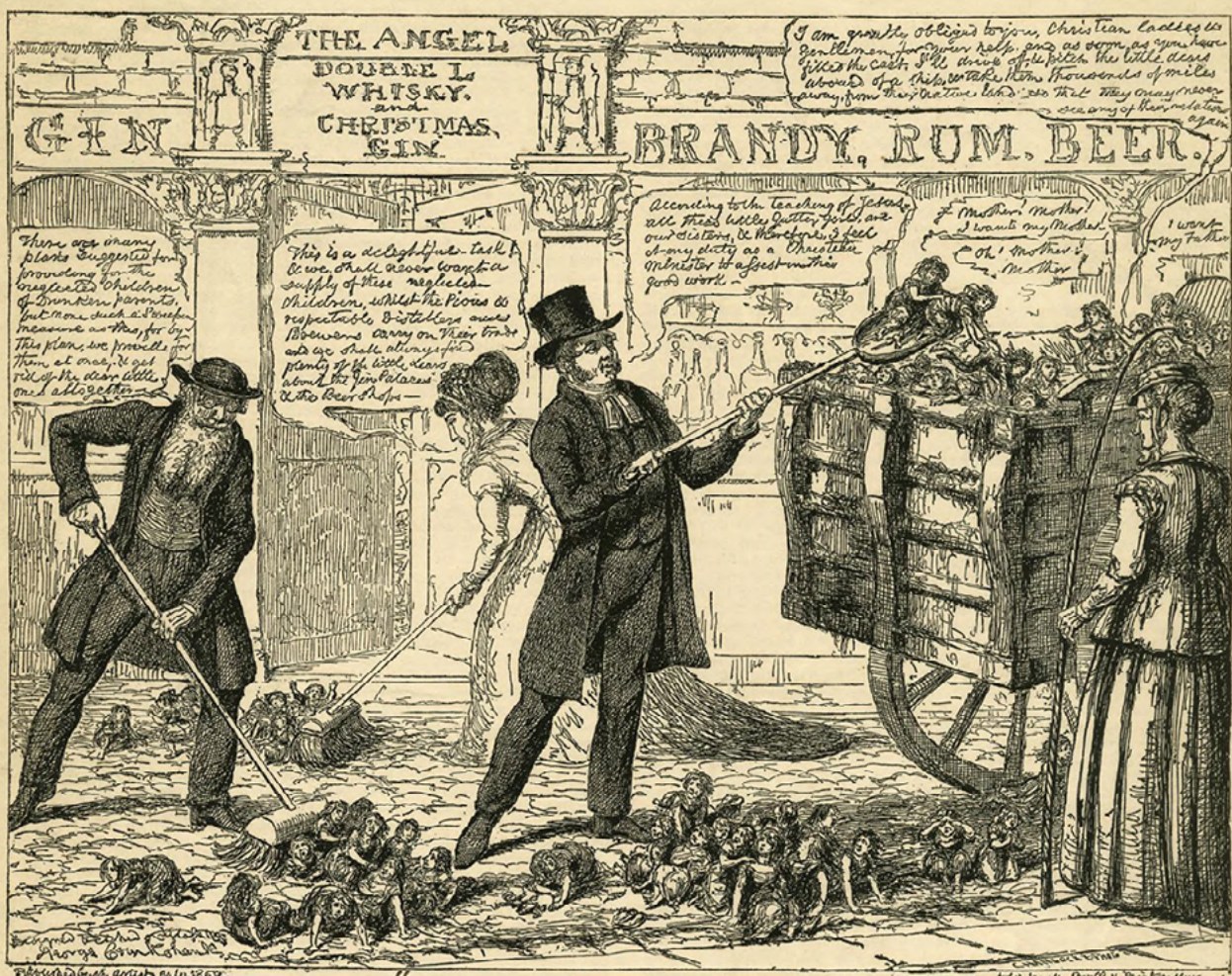
Source 1a: A cartoon from a pamphlet on a proposal to send poor children to the colonies, 1869. © The Trustees of the British Museum

Samuel Morley Esq. M.P. with the best regards of Geo Cruikshank

OUR "GUTTER CHILDREN."

BY

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK.



R 2696

OUR "GUTTER CHILDREN"

Transcript: Source 1a

OUR "GUTTER CHILDREN"

BY GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

Sign top left:

The Angel: Double L Whisky and Christmas Gin

Sign top right:

BRANDY, RUM, BEER.

Speech bubble top right:

I am greatly obliged to you, Christian ladies and Gentlemen, for your help, and as soon as you have filled the cart, I'll drive off, & pitch the little dears aboard of a ship, & take them thousands of miles away from their native land so that they may never see any of their relations again.

Speech bubble left:

There are many plans suggested for providing for the neglected children of drunken parents, but more such a sweeping measure as this, for by this plan, we provide for them at once, & get rid of the dear little ones altogether.

Speech bubble middle 1:

This is a delightful task & we shall never want of a supply of these neglected children whilst the pious & respectable Distillers and Brewers carry on their trade and we shall always find plenty of the little dears about the Gin Palaces & the Beer Shops.

Speech bubble middle 2:

According to the teaching of Jesus all these little gutter girls are our sisters, & therefore, I feel is any duty as a Christian Minister to assist in this good work.

Speech bubble right:

Mother! Mother! I want my Mother! Oh Mother! Mother! I want my Father!

Words below image: "Published by the artist July 1869. Sold by all Book & Print sellers" and "Our Gutter Children".

Source 1b: Article extracts by George Cruickshank accompanying
'Our Gutter Children' cartoon, 1869. © The Trustees of the British Museum

UNDER this heading a proposition has been made, through the press, with an appeal for pecuniary aid, to assist in transporting to Canada and the Western States of America, some of the deserted and neglected children of this country, who are to be found in the GUTTERS of our Cities and Towns—such as London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Cork, etc., etc., etc.

This proposition emanates from a very kind-hearted Christian lady (Miss Maria S. Rye), who it appears assists *British young women* to emigrate, (!) and deeply commiserating the wretched and miserable condition of our DESERTED and NEGLECTED "*Gutter Children*," proposes to take to Canada and the Western States of America, little gutter *girls*, from the age of 5 to 10 years. The boys, of this wild "*city Arab class*," she does not intend to take, as they have more "*Reformatory*" *accommodation* than the girls, as also the Army and Navy, by which to earn their bread, besides trades, etc.

Miss Rye, in her letter, says, it may be asked if she takes these children abroad, "What guarantee can you give us that they will be kindly treated, or even receive common justice, from the people with whom you leave them?" Miss Rye answers, "What treatment will they receive from the *cold*, the *starvation*, the *temptation* they meet with in our gutters. What *justice* will they receive at our hands, when the *police*, the *gaol*, the *hospital*, and the *Magdalen* receive them?"

Here then we have two questions to consider—one is, how these British *neglected* and *deserted* little gutter girls, from 5 to 10 years of age, will be treated by perfect strangers in a foreign land, on the other side of the world—and how they will be treated if they remain in their native land, on this side of the world.

My own opinion of this matter may be seen in the sketch at the head of this paper, for the proposition appears to me, like sweeping up the little girls, as so much mud out of our gutters, and pitching them into a mud cart, to be "*shipped aboard of a ship*," like so much guano, or like so many cattle, for a

foreign market. And if such a *transportation* of innocent children, of that tender age, either girls or boys, should take place, it will not only be a *degradation* and a *disgrace* to this nation, but also a disgrace to the Christian world, for I consider such a proceeding would be contrary to the laws of nature, and also Christian civilization.

Transcript: Source 1b

Under this heading a proposition has been made, through the press, with an appeal for pecuniary aid [request for money], to assist in transporting to Canada and the Western States of America, some of the deserted and neglected children of this country, who are to be found in the GUTTERS of our Cities and Towns—such as London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, Cork, etc. etc. etc.

This proposition emanates [arises] from a very kind-hearted Christian lady (Miss Maria S. Rye), who it appears assists British young women to emigrate, (!) and deeply commiserating the wretched and miserable condition of our DESERTED and NEGLECTED “Gutter children”, proposes to take to Canada and the Western States of America, little gutter girls, from the age of 5 to 10 years. The boys, of this wild “city Arab** class”, she does not intend to take, as they have more “Reformatory*” accommodation than the girls, as also the Army and Navy, by which to earn their bread, besides trades, etc.

Miss Rye, in her letter, says, it may be asked if she takes these children abroad, “What guarantee can you give us that they will be kindly treated, or even receive common justice, from the people with who you leave them?” Miss Rye answers, “What treatment will they receive from the cold, the starvation, the temptation they meet in our gutters. What justice will they receive at our hands, when the police, the goal, the hospital, and the Magdalen***receive them?”

Here then we have two questions to consider—one is, how these British neglected and deserted little gutter girls, from 5 to 10 years of age, will be treated by perfect strangers in a foreign land, on the other side of the world—and how they will be treated if they remain in their native land, on this side of the world.

My own opinion of this matter may be seen in the sketch at the head of this paper, for the proposition appears to me, like sweeping up the little girls, as so much mud out of our gutters, and pitching them into a mud cart, to be “shipped aboard of a ship”, like so much guano****, or like so many cattle, for a foreign market. And if such a transportation of innocent children, of that tender age, either girls or boys, should take place, it will not only be a degradation and a disgrace to this nation, but also a disgrace to the Christian world, for I consider such a proceeding would be contrary to the laws of nature, and also Christian civilization.

Glossary

* “Reformatory” accommodation – Cruickshank is probably referring to the Industrial School system set up in 1857. The Industrial Schools Act gave magistrates the power to send children between the ages of 7 and 14 years old to these institutions. The act was used to deal with children who were brought before the courts for living on the streets. Here, children were taught a trade to prevent them from turning to crime in the future. However, perhaps Cruickshank does not believe that these schools do any good as the word reformatory is in quotation marks or, because he does not actually name industrial schools, he could even be hinting at prison.

Transcript (cont.): Source 1b

** The term 'Street Arab' for a homeless, poor child living on the streets was used from 1848, according to the Oxford English Dictionary. Charles Dickens used the term 'Arab street boy' in the publication Household Words: Volume 10, Bradbury & Evans, 1855, p355.

*** Magdalene Laundries, or asylums, were a system of orphanages, industrial schools, and mother and baby homes for unmarried mothers.

**** Guano: excrement of seabirds and bats, used as fertilizer.

Source 2: 'Report as to the Children sent to Canada by the Bristol Incorporation of the Poor to Canada', 1874. Catalogue Ref: MH 32/20

MARK APPLEBY (Aged 13.)

Oct. 31st, 1872. A keen little man, not very big for his age, but quick and trustworthy. I saw him milk three cows, and manage them like any old man. He has a good home, and is much thought of.

5th Feb. 1874. He was at school, and is learning fairly. He has been rather troublesome of late, and disobedient to his mistress. If he persists in his obstinacy, I advised her to return him to the Home. He is not altogether to blame, as he is of rather a boisterous temperament, and requires a man to manage him.

FRANK LLEWELLYN (Aged 14).

April 17th, 1873. I now take my pen in hand to let you know I am well, I cannot go to school for we are making Sugar, but I go to Sunday school every Sunday. I like my master first-rate, and I can milk cows; we have 20 cows. April 10th, 1873.

Was at a Fête held at Marchmont, 21st August, 1873, and seen by Miss McPherson.

RICHARD MAHONEY (Aged 16).

20th Feb. 1873. Writes February 11th, I go to Sunday School every Sunday, and we have service in the Church every morning and night. I go as often as I can, and I hope God will direct me and keep me in His path.

Aug. 7th, 1873. Is in the same home with Jamie Gow, is learning the Coachmaking trade, rather slow to learn. The children were all greatly pleased with their presents.

Jan. 21st, 1874. Writes Jan. 12th, 1874. "I am very thankful to you for writing to me. I am getting along very well, and so is Abram Wood; we are both learning to skate."

HANNAH BAILEY (Aged 13).

Visited Aug., 1872. Has grown considerably; looks well and strong; greatly liked by her mistress, who always takes her with her when she goes to visit; getting on with her education.

MARY ANN BAILEY (Aged 9).

Visited in Aug., 1872. Removed, as she was not getting to school; quite a little drudge. Taken Aug. 27th to get schooling, clothes, etc.

EMILY BARKLEY (Aged 8).

Visited June, 1872. Doing well, but not a child they wished to adopt as their own, so advised to return her to the home; have got her another place.

GEORGE HARRISON, (Aged 13).

10th April, 1873. This boy, came from Bristol Union, 1871, and was adopted by a Quaker. Extract from History Book:—"Mother dead, Father also dead, was a Shoemaker; child admitted May 20th, 1868," was given him, and he adopted the boy as his own, giving him a good education. Yesterday received anxious letter, saying, George had a letter from his Mother, enclosed it, in which she "wants to have her darling boy" back again, &c. (How did she get the master's address?) Have written to her, and the superintendent, asking for further communications to be made through me, and that her boy is doing well.

Jan. 22nd, 1874. Heard good account of George, while staying in the neighbourhood of his home; his master would have brought him in to attend Miss McPherson's meeting but for a poor sleighing. Not very quick at his books.

ELIZA ANN TUCKER (Aged 10).

Feb. 17th, 1874. E. has been quite an anxiety to the family, she is so heedless. They had to part with her for a time, but still continued their interest in her, and when the family who had her were removing to another part of the country they went after her again, and now she is doing better; she is a bright, strong, healthy looking child.

ROSINA DEW (Aged 9).

June 4th, 1872—Heard from a farmer that R. was doing nicely. Visited, and found her in a good home; much thought of. July 25th, 1872—Mr. Maby writes she has been going to school since vacation ended; is smart to learn anything; could not part with her. August—Mrs. Maby called; wished to adopt Rosina as her own; agreed.

ROSINA DEW (Aged 11).

Was at a Fête at Marchmont, 7th June, 1873, and seen by Miss McPherson.

17th Feb. 1874. Mrs. — has had a good deal of trouble with R. She is high-tempered, fond of her own way, and so untidy, but, with firmness, and love, she is being won over, and slowly improving. She is with kind Christian people, who have the interest of the Children at heart.

Transcript: Source 2

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ROSINA DEW (Aged 11).

Was at a Fete at Marchmont, 7th June, 1873, and seen by Miss McPherson.

17th Feb, 1874. Mrs — has had a good deal of trouble with R. She is high-tempered, fond of her own way, and so untidy, but, with firmness, and love, she is being won over, and slowly improving. She is with kind Christian people, who have the interest of the Children at heart.

Source 3a: Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation (extract), 1874. Catalogue Ref: MH 32/20

The Committee have had submitted to them the report of Mr. Andrew Doyle, Local Government Inspector, on the subject of emigration of pauper children to Canada, addressed to the President of the Local Government Board. This report, as appears from evidence submitted to the Committee, was transmitted to His Excellency the Governor General by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that it should receive the particular attention of the Canadian Government.

Mr. Doyle's report is adverse to the work which has been performed by Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye, in bringing out pauper and other children to settle among the population of Canada.

The Committee have heard the statements of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye in rebuttal of the allegations of Mr. Doyle, and they append them to this report. The statements made by these ladies are contradictory to those of Mr. Doyle, and explanatory of their work.

Transcript: Source 3a

The Committee have had submitted to them the report of Mr. Andrew Doyle, Local Government Inspector, [Workhouse inspector] on the subject of emigration of pauper children to Canada, addressed to the President of the Local Government Board. This report, as appears from evidence submitted to the Committee, was transmitted to his Excellency the Governor General by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with a request that it should receive the particular attention of the Canadian Government.

Mr. Doyle's report is adverse [against] to the work which has been performed by Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye, in bringing out pauper [workhouse children] and other children to settle among the population of Canada.

The Committee have heard the statements of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye in rebuttal [rejection] of the allegations [charges] of Mr. Doyle, and they append them to this report. The statements made by these ladies are contradictory to those of Mr Doyle, and explanatory of their work.

...

Source 3b: Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation (extract), 1874. Catalogue Ref: MH 32/20

Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye; and, in fact, makes reflections upon both these ladies of a severe character. Without attempting to give to the Committee a summary of the report, I may say that Mr. Doyle in substance charges these ladies with failing in the responsibility which they have undertaken with regard to the workhouse children, in that they have not maintained the care and supervision over them which they promised. He intimates, as a consequence, that some of the girls have gone wholly to destruction, and some of the boys to the gaols. He states that many of the children are placed in unsuitable situations, and required to do work for which they are wholly unfitted. This state of things, in many cases, he further alleges, leads to hardship and positive cruelty. "The Homes," he considers insufficient for their requirements, and that the supervision or inspection of the children after they are placed out, is of the loosest possible character. In fact, he gives it to be understood that the system amounts to nothing more than just scattering the children broadcast here and there, and losing sight of them, in conditions, in which in many cases, improper advantages may be done, and taken of them. He does not give any information as to the number of children who are doing well, or the proportion of failures to the whole. But he makes the general statement "nine-tenths of the children who have been brought out are still in service, and it remains to be seen how they will turn out." No evidence whatever is adduced to show that so large a proportion as one-tenth of the children is out of service. Of the nine-tenths in service, Mr. Doyle says further: "The prospects of a considerable number of them are no doubt promising. Of the prospects of a still greater number of a considerably number of them are no other way or the other, so little is known of them." Of the "no one can honestly say anything, one way or the other, so little is known of them." Of the "adopted" children he states that about 10 per cent. of the very young are very happily placed in respectable families. It may be remarked that Mr. Doyle does not classify in his observations the pauper children from workhouses and those who have been picked up by the ladies from the streets; and further, that he states he did not make an inspection of more than 400 cases, which only form about one-eighth part of the whole of the children brought out by these ladies. But he adds he did

Transcript: Source 3b

... Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye; and, in fact, makes reflections upon both these ladies of a severe character. Without attempting to give to the Committee a summary of the report, I may say that Mr. Doyle in substance charges these ladies with failing in the responsibility which they have undertaken with regard to the workhouse children, in that they have not maintained the care and supervision over them which they promised. He intimates [suggests], as a consequence, that some of the girls have gone wholly to destruction, and some of the boys to the gaols. He states that many of the children are placed in unsuitable situations, and required to do work for which they are wholly unfitted. This state of things, in many cases, he further alleges, leads to hardship and positive cruelty. "The Homes" [reception centres in Canada] he considers insufficient for their requirements, and that the supervision or inspection of the children after they are placed out, is of the loosest possible character. In fact, he gives it to be understood that the system amounts to nothing more than just scattering the children broadcast here and there, and losing sight of them, in conditions, in which in many cases, improper advantages may be and are taken of them. He does not give any information as to the number of children who are doing well, or the proportion of failures to the whole. But he makes the general statement "nine-tenths" of the children who have been brought out are still in service, and it remains to be seen how they "will turn out". No evidence whatever is adduced [used] to show that so large a proportion as one-tenth of the children is out of service. Of the nine-tenths in service, Mr. Doyle says further: "The prospects" of a considerable number of them are no doubt promising. Of the prospects of a still greater number "no one can honestly say anything, one way or the other, so little is known of them". Of the "adopted" children, he states that about 10 percent of the very young are very happily placed in respectable families. It may be remarked that Mr. Doyle does not classify in his observations the pauper children from the workhouses and those who have been picked up by the ladies from the streets; and further, that he states he did not make an inspection of more than 400 cases, which only form about one-eighth part of the whole of the children brought out by these ladies.

...

Source 3c: Proceedings of the Committee of the House of Commons on Immigration and Colonisation (extract), 1874. Catalogue Ref: MH 32/20

about one-eighth part of the whole of the cases. He more than insinuates that these visit a sufficient number of cases to enable him to see the system. He more than insinuates that these ladies are not wholly actuated by motives of benevolence, and states that for the pauper children they receive 8*l.* 8*s.* per head from the Poor Law authorities, while they obtain passenger warrants from the Dominion Government for 3*l.* 5*s.* stg. or 2*l.* 5*s.* stg., and get also from the Ontario Government the refund bonus of 1*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.* per head. Further that they have free railway fares from Quebec given to them; and that the cost of their Homes is not more than about 200*l.* stg. per year each. He states the ladies informed him they desired a full inspection of their accounts, but up to the period of writing his report, they had not answered his request to be informed of the monies they had received from the Dominion and Provincial Governments. He therefore infers that on the pauper children at least, they receive five or six pounds sterling each, more than they pay out. I may on this point remark, however, that the pauper children only form a very inconsiderable portion of the whole of those who are brought out by Miss Macpherson, and a little more than half of those brought out by Miss Rye. Mr. Doyle does admit that under proper system, the emigration of these children to Canada might be advantageous to all concerned. He finds that Canada does possess a field capable of absorbing a very large number of agricultural labourers, and states that society in Canada is preferable to that in other parts of America. The conditions which he considers necessary,

Transcript: Source 3c

... He more than insinuates [suggests a bad thing] that these ladies are not wholly actuated [driven] by motives of benevolence [kindness], and states that for the pauper children they receive 8l. 8s. stg. [£8. 8 shillings, sterling] per head from the Poor Law authorities, while they obtain passenger warrants [travel costs] from the Dominion Government [Canadian Government] for 3l. 5s. stg. [£3. 5 shillings, sterling] or 2l. 5s. stg. [£2. 5 shillings, sterling] and get also from the Ontario Government [Local government] the bonus of 1l. 4s. 8d [£1.4 shillings 8 pence] per head. Further that they have free railway fares from Quebec given to them; and that the cost of their Homes is not more than about 200l. [£200] sterling per year each. He states the ladies informed him they desired a full inspection of their accounts, but up to the period of writing his report, they had not answered his request to be informed of the monies they had received from the Dominion and Provincial [local] Governments. He therefore infers that on the pauper children at least, they receive five or six pounds sterling each, more than they pay out. I may on this point remark, however, that the pauper children only form a very inconsiderable [small] portion of the whole of those who are brought out by Miss Macpherson, and a little more than half of those brought out by Miss Rye. Mr Doyle does admit that under proper system, the emigration of these children to Canada might be advantageous to all concerned. He finds that Canada does possess a field capable of absorbing a very large number of agricultural labourers, and states that society in Canada is preferable to that in other parts of America.

...

Source 4: Poster from the Poplar Poor Law Union in London, 12th September 1884. Catalogue Ref: MH 12/7698

POPLAR UNION. DESERTED CHILDREN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on the 12th day of December next, the Guardians of the Poor of the Poplar Union will proceed to consider the question of the expediency of assisting the

EMIGRATION TO CANADA

Of such of the following children as may be then maintained in the District or other School chargeable to this Union by reason of their having been deserted, or otherwise abandoned, by their Parents, and who by age, physical capacity and otherwise may then be found to be eligible for such emigration, namely:--

NAMES.	Ages.	NAMES.	Ages.
BYFORD, WILLIAM	11	HAGERTY, ELLEN	11
" FREDERICK	9	HEWSON, GEORGE	11
BROWNING, SAMUEL	7	" JOSEPH	10
" FREDERICK	5	HODGE, EVA	8
BERRY, ALFRED	12	MAKER, GEORGE	5
" FREDERICK	8	" ELIZABETH	4
BRIGHTWELL, ELIZABETH	11	MEREDITH, EMMA	10
BROWN, DOLLY	12	" " CHARLES	8
BRIAN, JAMES	9	" " WALTER	7
" MARY	6	MONK, MARY ANN	11
" PATRICK	4	" ELIZA	3
BRITTAIN, ADA	9	" RACHEL	6
" " CHARLES	3	MARTIN, FREDERICK	8
" " WILLIAM	2	" HENRY	7
BOLTON, BERTIE	5	" AMELIA	4
" EDITH	8	NEWBERRY, ALBERT	11
CAVERLEY, ARCHIBALD	10	" WILLIAM	9
CRAWLEY, ANN MARY	13	OLDING, SUSAN	7
CALLAGHAN, MARGARET	9	OXHALL, RICHARD	5
" ELLEN	6	" EDWARD	3
DEELY, LOUISA	4	PRATT, ROBERT	9
ELICK, SARAH	16	ROWBOTHAM, WILLIAM	5
" LOUISA	14	SOUTH, CATHERINE	11
HOLMES, CHARLOTTE	12	" GEORGE	8
" JANE	9	SHERVILLE, PERCY	8
HAMILTON, ARTHUR JOHN	11	SHACHL, ALBERT	11
" " WILLIAM	7	SILK, HARRIET	10
" " GEORGE	4	WHITWROWE, JENNIE	4
HARVEY, RICHARD	10	WHITE, AGNES	12
" " GEORGE	6	" MARGARET	4
" " MARGARET	2	WILLIAMS, JOHN	11
HUGHES, ALBERT	13	WARD, MARY ANN	14
" FANNY	12	WILKINSON, THOMAS	11
HANCOCK, ALICE	12	" " SARAH	10
" " ARTHUR	10	" " HENRY	6
" " HERBERT	8	WILLMOTT, JEFFREY	10
" " ALBERT	5	" " SARAH	4
" " OLIVE	3		
" " HENRY	1		

BY ORDER,
JAMES R. COLLINS, Clerk.

Union Offices: High Street, Poplar.
September 12th, 1884.

J. WILLIS, Steam Printer, Dower Street, St. Leonard's Road, Bromley, E.

Transcript: Source 4

POPLAR UNION
DESERTED CHILDREN

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...

BY ORDER,

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Transcript: Source 4

Names	Ages	Names	Ages
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BERRY, ALFRED	12	MAKER, GEORGE	5
BERRY, FREDERICK	8	MAKER, ELIZABETH	4
BRIGHTWELL, ELIZABETH	11	MEREDITH, EMMA	10
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BRIAN, JAMES	9	MEREDITH, WALTER	7
BRIAN, MARY	6	MONK, MARY ANN	11
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CRAWLEY, ANN MARY	13	OLDING, SUSAN	7
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DEELY, LOUISA	4	PRATT, ROBERT	9
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HAMILTON, WILLIAM	7	SILK, HARRIET	10
HAMILTON, GEORGE	4	WHITWROWE, JENNIE	4
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HUGHES, FANNY	12	WILKINSON, THOMAS	11
HANCOCK, ALICE	12	WILKINSON, SARAH	10
HANCOCK, ARTHUR	10	WILKINSON, HENRY	6
HANCOCK, HERBERT	8	WILLMOTT, JEFFERY	10
HANCOCK, ALBERT	5	WILLMOTT, SARAH	4
HANCOCK, OLIVE	3		
HANCOCK, HENRY	1		

Source 5a: Extract from publicity material produced by the charity Dr Barnardo's, 1913. Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1118 pg. 2



The Raw Material & what can be made of it

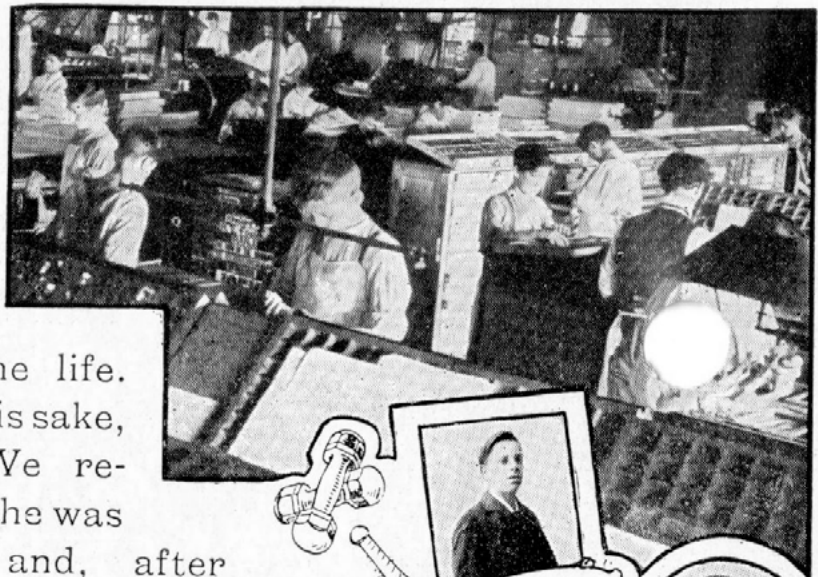
JACK'S history was a very sad one. He had no home life. We cannot, for his sake, give details. We received him when he was 11 years old, and, after schooling, taught him the trade of a Compositor. We also looked after his physical training, as indicated by the dumb-bells and clubs.

Nine years ago he was emigrated to Canada, where he is following his trade, and is also a Volunteer in the Q.O.R.

Jack came to see us when his Regiment was visiting England recently, and the photo shows him as he is to-day.

This is a case of "what might have been" and "what he is"—a credit to the Homes and to his Country.

And the cost? Only £16 per annum for maintenance and training, and £10 for emigration expenses.



Transcript: Source 5a

The Raw Material & What can be made of it

Jack's history was a very sad one. He had no home life. We cannot, for his sake, give details. We received him when he was 11 years old, and, after schooling, taught him the trade of a Compositor*. We also looked after his physical training, as indicated by the dumb-bells and clubs.

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Jack came to see us when his Regiment was visiting England recently, and the photo shows him as he is to-day.

This is a case of "what might have been" and "what he is" – a credit to the Homes and to his Country.

And the COST? Only £16 per annum for maintenance and training, and £10 for emigration expenses.

*A compositor arranges text and images for books, magazines or newspaper before they are printed

Source 5b: Extract from publicity material produced by the charity Dr Barnardo's, 1913. Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1118 pg. 11

SOMETHING DONE.

Empire Builders?

We teach the boys Trades and the girls domestic pursuits, to fit them for the Battle of Life ; and we place large numbers of them in situations in England. Others we emigrate to the Colonies, chiefly to Canada. It is wise in some cases, if our



training is to be permanent, to place the ocean between the child and its earlier surroundings ; for having once rescued the child we do not want it to drift back to the condition from which we rescued it.

Ninety-eight per cent. of our Emigrants do well, thus proving that our training is on the right basis. This is Empire-Building work of the best kind.

Transcript: Source 5b

SOMETHING DONE.

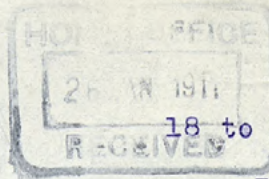
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Source 6: Letter from George Code to Mr. Rowe concerning his two daughters, 20 January 1911. Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1118/203442

203442

Copy

18 to 26, Stepney Causeway,

London, E.

20th January 1911.

To Mr G. Rowe,

I am desired by the Managers of these Institutions to inform you that your daughters , Eva May and Hilda Kate Rowe, now in the Girls' Village Home, Barkingside, Ilford, will probably be selected to go with the next Party of children to our Branch Home in Canada, from which place they will, if they behave well, be received into a Canadian family and find a happy home.

Should you desire to write to the children, their address is - c/o The Secretary, Margaret Cox Girls' Home, Peterboro', Ontario, Canada. Your letters will only need a penny stamp if they do not exceed an ounce in weight

The Managers will be pleased to furnish you at intervals with tidings of their progress and welfare in the new country.

I am directed to inform you that in Canada they will be under the same kind and watchful supervision, on the part of experienced ladies belonging to our Home, as they would have enjoyed had they remained in England. The Managers have every reason to believe that their best interests will be secured by their emigration.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed)

George Code

Honorary Secretary

Transcript: Source 6

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203442

18 to 26, Stepney Causeway,
London, E.

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I am desired by the Managers of these Institutions to inform you that your daughters, Eva May and Hilda Kate Rowe, now in the Girls' Village Home, Barkingside, Ilford, will probably be selected to go with the next Party of children to our Branch Home in Canada, from which place they will, if they behave well, be received into a Canadian family and find a happy home.

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I am,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) George Code
Honorary Secretary

Source 7: Mr. Rowe to Dr Barnardo's about the plan to send his daughters to Canada, 22 January, 1911. Catalogue Ref: HO 144/1118/203442

371 Popkisson Rd
Southampton
203442
23 JAN 1911
HOME OFFICE
26 JAN 1911
RECEIVED

Sir
I was surprised to receive a letter from you telling me you were sending my two little girls to Canada which I do not approve of and if there any means of stopping it I shall do so. I think they are quite far enough away from me now

I called on your Manager at the Southampton Branch on Saturday and he told me when there some work being so I shall endeavour to see to it that that means to say I shall now see the children a gain I consider most cruel for two children to be sent my self quite penniless enough so far a way from I shall now be able then Father & friends that loves them so dear

to give the money for them to come back I can't pay my way home work being so

Very Sincerely
W. G. Rowe

Yours truly
W. G. Rowe

Transcript: Source 7

371 Parkwood Road
Southampton
Jan 22 [1911]

Sir

I was surprised to receive a letter from you telling me that you were sending my two little girls to Canada which I do not approve of and if there [are] any means of stopping it I shall do so. I think they are quite [sic] far enough away from me now. I called on your manager at the Southampton Branch on Saturday and he told me when there [sic] time was up they would be left there and that means to say I shall never see the children again. I consider myself to have been punished quite enough.

I shall never be able to save the money for them to come back. I cannot pay my way now work being so very slack. I shall endeavour to see the Magistrates who made the order. I think it is most cruel for the children to be sent so far away from there [sic] father and friends that loves them so dear.

I am Sir
Yours truly
W.G. Rowe



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Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

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 education@nationalarchives.gov.uk

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