

FANLING BABIES HOME

His Excellency The Governor Sees Welfare Work

NEW TERRITORIES TOUR

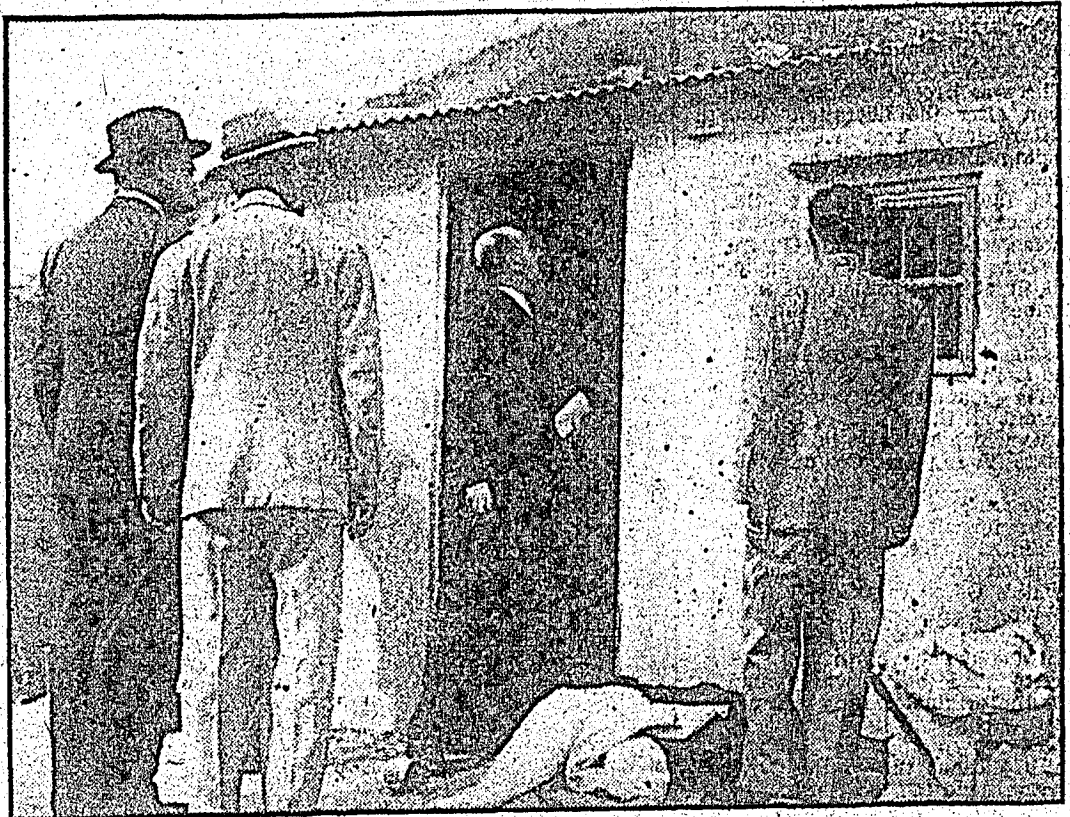
His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham, yesterday went to Fanling and Taipo to see one very active part of social welfare work in Hongkong. He visited The Babies' Home, Christian Children's Fund, Children's Home, also at Fanling, and the Taipo Rural Home and Orphanage.

His Excellency was accompanied on the tour by Mr D.R. Holmes, the Acting Social Welfare Officer, and by Miss Dorothy Lee, Principal Youth Welfare Officer.

They went first to the Babies' Home where His Excellency was greeted by Dr Arthur Woo, a

some of the girls who were originally taken to the Home as babies were among the happy youngsters who waited for, and then greeted His Excellency.

The Government has granted a five and a half acre piece of land close to the Babies' Home for the construction of a new



Before his visit to the New Territories yesterday afternoon His Excellency the Governor inspected progress at the new Fuk Wa Village, Ngau Tau Kok, where some 600 victims of last November's fire at Tung Tau are now resettled. He was shown around by the Hon. K. M. A. Barnett, Chairman of the Urban Council and saw for himself the rapid strides that have been made in re-accommodating the fire victims. Photo shows His Excellency inspecting the interior of a newly constructed dwelling. — (Moderate Photo Service).

member of the Field Executive Council, and by Mr G.T. Padgett, Honorary Secretary of the Field Executive Committee of the Fanling Boys' Home, and was introduced to the Rev. Terent J.R. Mills, Overseas Director of the Christian Children's Fund, Incorporated, Richmond, Va., USA.

Before the arrival of His Excellency and his party, the Rev. Mr Mills conducted the Press on a tour of the Home.

Now 10 years old and under,

building. When this is completed the Home will move in, leaving the present spacious building and pleasant surroundings to the Technical High School which provides the education necessary for various employment.

The Home also plans to provide first-class business courses for children with a higher intelligence quota. Among other things they will be taught shorthand, typing and book-keeping. From this group will also be chosen personnel for the carrying on of the work in similar homes in various parts of Hongkong.

Two British nurses work at the Home. They are Miss Lucy Clay (Superintendent) and her assistant, Miss Mary Ogden. Furthermore, there are three assistants.

Opened In 1936

A statement prepared by Mr Padgett gives these additional details about the Home:

The Fanling Babies' Home is a Christian organisation, having its Headquarters in England. It was opened in November 11, 1936, and was sponsored for the first three years by the Hongkong Evangelical Fraternity. Since then, the Home has been run on voluntary donations, a yearly grant from the Hongkong Government, and the subscriptions from children's supporters.

The beginning of the Home's association with the Christian Children's Fund was in 1940 when that organisation—then known as the China Children's Fund, undertook to support 21 children in the Home, about a quarter of the total number. During the war the work was carried on.

Since 1946 the association with the Christian Children's Fund has become closer and

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stronger. In that year they undertook to support 54 children in the Home, and in addition purchased outright the building and grounds in which the Home had been housed since 1940.

The Home Council are a body of Christian people in England who "seek to create and maintain prayerful and practical interest in individual children as well as in the general work of the Home."

Active interest is being maintained by the Canadian fellowship of the Home, who have their own organisation for obtaining and remitting funds.

Due to the resignation of the Superintendent in 1951, and for other reasons felt to be advantageous to the future welfare of the Home, the Field Committee (an Advisory Committee as it

was then) strongly urged the Home Council to accept the offer of the Christian Children's Fund to "assume full responsibility both financially and administratively of the Fanling Babies' Home."

The Home Council accepted this offer in September, 1951.

The Christian Children's Fund are the owners of the property on which the Home is sited. Besides allowing this to the Home, rent free, and supporting a large number of the children, they undertake full responsibility for the continued upkeep of the Home, by implementing the funds received from other sources.

The policy of the Home is to allow a child to be adopted if a request is made from a Christian family.

A very great benefit to all the children at the Home, by being affiliated to the Christian Children's Fund, consists in their having access to the other orphanages run by this organisation. The older boys have already been transferred to boys' homes, run by organisations under the control of the Christian Children's Fund.

The total number of children now in the Home is 144. Three boys were transferred to boys' Homes. Three babies were adopted in 1951.

When Mr Padgett and Dr Arthur Woo went to the Home yesterday they brought with them a big sack-load of toys for the children.

During the latter part of the occupation of the Colony, Dr Woo fulfilled the major responsibility of maintaining the Home.

Taiipo Orphanage

The Taiipo Rural Home and Orphanage, situated near the 13½ milestone, just south of Taiipo, houses 90 boys and 60 girls between the ages of 6 and 18 years. The Superintendent is the Rev. Denham Crary and he has a staff of 16 assistants.

The present orphanage was built in 1937 but it was a continuation of a much older foundation. The Victoria Home at Kowloon City was established by the Church Missionary Society in 1887 and the Taiipo Orphanage was a direct successor of the earlier Home, being started when the Government took over the original site.

Like the Fanling Babies' Home, the Taiipo Orphanage contrived to keep going right through the war in spite of many difficulties.

It was the original intention that the Orphanage should become a training ground and preparation for farmers. Besides farming, the activities of the orphanage include carpentry, building, forestry, weaving, tailoring, the raising of chickens, pigs and bees, and fishing (the children operate a 20-foot cutter built by themselves). This training takes place in the afternoon whilst the forenoon is occupied by formal school-room instruction. As much as any comparable institution in the Colony, this orphanage insists that its inmates must be capable when they grow up of accepting responsibility, standing on their own feet and earning their own living.

Children's Home

The Christian Children's Fund Children's Home, situated near Fanling Station, houses 165 orphan boys and girls between the ages of about 14-18 years. In addition to formal schooling the Home's activities include basket-weaving, farming, gardening, sewing and home management. The Superintendent of the Home is Mr Koo Shau-yl.