

and, he said, yet current. And I want THE INDIAN to add its request to mine, that this careful and capable person may conquer his excessive modesty and favor us with written details, which, if not soon secured, may be completely lost.

A VISIT TO THE MOUNT ELGIN INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION, MUNCEY.

By Scobie Logan.

Before giving a description of this Model Farm and the Institution, allow me to say that this Institution is under the management of the Methodist Church, which, by the way, is a guarantee to all concerned of efficient management. It is supported in part by the Government, and in part by the Farm and shops, and the balance is taken from the Treasury of the Missionary Society.

Before entering the main buildings I was struck by the marked improvements since my student life here. More land is now under cultivation, and is more highly and scientifically cultivated. Extensive board and wire fences greatly enhance the appearance of the place. Two large and commodious farm houses occupied by farm officers and greatly to the comfort of management as well as the beauty of the place. An extensive system of tiling has been so ordered as to have flowing water in nearly every field on the farm. All modern machinery and appliances are utilized to the best advantage. It is the opinion of the manager (Rev. W. W. Shepherd,) that the work is largely a pleasure when contrasted with the old time methods.

Coming nearer to the main building I find new and commodious two story building occupied on the lower flat as a play house and laboratory for the boys, while the upper story is an excellent reading and study room. The south end of the main building has been largely extended, furnishing additional dormitory accommodation in the third flat, while on the second flat a tailoring and general work department has been largely increased and the basement forms an excellent laboratory and play room for the girls.

Water pipes and taps within the building and large tanks, force pumps and extensive hose outside furnish ample water accommodation for all purposes, and is quite a protection against fire.

This building has ample accommodation for thirty girls and the same number of boys, and we would be glad to see it so enlarged that one hundred could be accommodated.

The clothing, which is uniform, is warm, being made of excellent material. The boots and shoes which are manufactured in the Institute shoe shops are all that could be desired. Thus dressed the pupils present a chaste and comfortable appearance.

I had also an opportunity of inspecting the tables and found the provisions abundant and wholesome, and of the most substantial character, and if any of my readers have ever heard anything to the contrary, my advice is "To come and see for yourself." You will find the Principal genial and accommodating so that you can have a full view of everything. But allow me a word of caution, the Principal is a busy and active man, and the many calls, would suggest

that visits should not be too frequent and too long. The appearance of the pupils who have been here a year or upwards is of itself the best proof of good treatment, and the excellency of the system on which the Institution is conducted.

This being an Industrial Institution and its aim being to train its pupils to the habits of industry and to give them a knowledge of agriculture and horticulture and some branches of mechanicism, such as tailoring, shoe making, cabinet making, and the carpenter business, as well as a literary education. It has been found an advantage to have them organized into three divisions are in school at the same time. This means to the pupils two days in school and one out, as there is school on Saturday it means four days schooling in a week. The days the pupils are out of school they are employed in the various industries of the establishment. It will be easily understood that a teacher having only two classes under his care at the same time can do much more for them in four days each week than he could if he had four or five classes and had them in five days.

By this plan, when one pupil of a division is in school all the pupils of that division are in. Thus there are no absentees when the classes are called, and no excuse for one pupil falling behind the others of his class. This system, I am informed, has been in use for three years, and these have been the brightest and best years in the Institute's history. During the three years more pupils have taken certificates as teachers than in any other year in the Institute's history. Notwithstanding the excellency of this system, some pupils and parents have complained because the scholars were not in school every day, but examination will show that in most cases (if not in all) these complaints originated with pupils that had to be disciplined for some misdemeanor and possibly left the Institution without the permission of the manager, and found it necessary to give some excuse for their conduct when they arrived at home.

The Institution year commences on the last Thursday in September and closes on the third Wednesday in July. The only holidays in the year are Christmas, New Years and twenty-fourth of May. I mean by this that there is school on all other days—including an excellent Sabbath school on Sunday. During the two months' holidays in summer, it is found necessary to retain a part of the pupils at the Institute, this is so managed that pupils that remain, stay half of the holidays, others returning in time to take the other half. It is so arranged that it is properly divided among all, at the discretion of the Principal.

Mr. Editor, fearing I have already trespassed in the length of this article, and having much more to say I will defer till some future date.

Among the useful articles of the Northwest are fur robes made of rabbit skins cut in stripes and braided by Indian women, very warm and light.

Beaver will gnaw through a tree 11 inches thick and fell them to fill water ways for their own convenience.

Many of the white race are inclined to believe that the Indian women are doing far more of the hard work that is done around the reserves than is necessary. Education, with the assistance of THE INDIAN is doing a great work in teaching the warriors to become tillers of the soil and the performers of duties belonging to the head of the household. While the warrior on the reserve is taking up agricultural pursuits, the Christian palefaces of Switzerland, Belgium and Sweden are travelling at a rapid rate back to the age of savage manners and customs. The busy men and women of Europe need turn their attention to the women of Switzerland, slaves of cruel masters.

The stranger in Switzerland will be struck at once by the beauty of the country and the ugliness of the women. Here nature seems to have spent herself upon inanimate objects and to have had no material left over for humanity, which she composed out of the *æbris* left over after she had constructed the *mise en scene*. A pretty face, native and to the manner born, is rarely, if ever, seen upon the streets of Bern.

The women appear to do all the work. It is not unusual to see a girl and a dog hitched to a cart and trotting along together like a pair of ponies. The men great strapping fellows, idle and lazy, loaf about the public-houses. Their wives, daughters, and sisters till the fields and supply the markets. The dog, the goat, and the cow perform the offices commonly performed in other lands by the horse, the ox, and the mule. The bear is a sacred animal, so is the lion. The donkey does fancy duty at the summer resorts. But there is nothing to which the Swiss woman may not turn her hand, from milking a goat to sawing wood and drawing a load of hay. She is put to work in her childhood, and before she reaches her maturity she looks like a grandmother, wrinkled and weatherbeaten, bent and careworn. The circumstance, which appears at every turning and is written upon each countenance, leaves a painful impression and discredits the national character. A people so independent and so brave, so unaffected and so frugal as the Swiss are admitted to be, ought to be gentler.—*Tit Bits*.

A letter from Sassakawa, Seminole Nation, Indian Territory, gives an account of the death there on Dec. 5, of Mrs. Susanna Warren, perhaps the oldest person in the United States, if not in the world. She was born in the old town of St. Augustine, Fla., in 1750. She was born a slave and was the property of a Spanish master, until 1818, when she, with other Spanish slaves, fled from the Pensacola, when it was taken by Gen. Jackson. She lived in the Seminole Country from then until the second treaty of peace with the Seminoles, when she was regarded as their common property, and was removed with them to the Indian territory. She leaves one daughter living in Austin, Tex., who is in her 97th year, and many grandchildren, some of them nearly 70 years of age.

The Historical Society of Winnipeg has a bell that was brought from England in 1638 to Fort William, Ontario, and is still of sweet tone, and sound. It weighs about 100 pounds.