



# THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb,  
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

### OUR MISSION:

**First** - That a number of our pupils may learn to read, write, and from the knowledge obtained be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

**Second** - To furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf mute subscribers.

**Third** - To be a medium of communication between the school and parents and friends of pupils, now in the institution, the hundreds who were pupils at one time or other in the past, and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf of our land.

### SUBSCRIPTION:

Fifty (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted if we know it.

### ADVERTISING:

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

**THE CANADIAN MUTE,**

BELLEVILLE,

ONTARIO.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1895.

### Twenty-fifth Birthday.

The Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb feels decidedly proud of itself just now for the reason that it a few days ago celebrated its twenty-fifth birthday; and a brief glance at the past will be in place, while we will be pardoned if we indulge in a little self gratulation.

It was on October 20th, 1870, that the Institution was formally opened by Lieutenant-Governor Howland amid appropriate ceremonies, and in the presence of a large number of distinguished gentlemen, among whom were Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, then Premier of Ontario, Hon. E. B. Wood, and the local members of the Legislature, and the members of the county and city councils. Addresses were presented to His Excellency by Warren A. F. Wood and Mayor A. Robertson, and a banquet followed, at the close of which His Excellency declared the Institution formally opened. A number of pupils had already arrived and more followed, but the attendance at first was not large as it was years before the mass of the people had formed any adequate conception of the purpose and aim of the Institution.

The following composed the original staff:

- W. J. Palmer, M. A., Principal
  - Teachers: J. B. McGann, D. R. Coleman, M. A., J. T. Watson, S. T. Greene, B. A., Mrs. J. G. Terrill, Miss A. Perry
  - Geo. Ackerman, teacher of drawing
  - A. Christie, steward and book keeper.
  - Mrs. M. A. Keggan, matron.
  - P. F. Canniff, farmer.
  - William Macdonald, engineer.
- Of these only Mrs. Terrill and Mr. Coleman remain.

Since that time the record of the Institution has been one of continued growth and over-increasing prosperity

and success. In 1870 Dr. Palmer retired and was succeeded by Mr. R. Mathison the present superintendent while the staff has been gradually enlarged till it is now three times its original size. It has, however, not been all sunshine, for the Institution has been called upon to mourn the loss of some of its brightest ornaments, notably Mr. McGann the pioneer of deaf mute education in Ontario, Prof. Greene, Prof. Ashby and Mr. D. M. Beaton all of them among the ablest educators of the deaf in America. But men may come and men may go, but institutions must go on forever, and fortunately the success and prosperity of such an enterprise does not depend on the uncertain existence of particular individuals, and despite the heavy blows such losses were to the Institution yet it has continued to enjoy uninterrupted prosperity, until this year it has reached high water mark in point of attendance, and let us hope it may prove, in point of success and usefulness also.



Mrs. Ashcroft.

We have much pleasure this week in presenting to our readers a very good cut of the Mackay Institution at Montreal and of Mrs. Ashcroft, the esteemed and efficient superintendent thereof.

It was in the year 1870 that the first school for Protestant deaf mutes was opened in Montreal under the charge of Mr. Widd. This school struggled along in cramped quarters and with inadequate financial assistance till 1878, when Mr. Joseph Mackay erected and presented to the trustees the handsome and commodious structure now known as the Mackay Institution, and since then its career has been a prosperous one.

In 1882 Mr. Widd resigned his position and Miss McGann now Mrs. Ashcroft who the previous year had become a member of the staff, was offered and accepted the superintendency, which position she has ever since filled. She has proven herself to be a most efficient teacher and capable administrator. Her efforts on behalf of the deaf under her charge have been most assiduous, and she has her reward in the consciousness of the invaluable benefits that have been derived by all her pupils. She is a sister of Mrs. Terrill of the Belleville Institution, and it is eminently appropriate that she should hold her present position since it was largely due to her father's efforts that the first school in 1870 was organized.

In 1870 there were 16 pupils in attendance at the school, while this year the number amounts to 63. The system of instruction is similar to that adopted in the Ontario Institution with however, more attention to oral instruction. There are five teachers on the staff exclusive of Mrs. Ashcroft and also three instructors. We hope that the very gratifying success of the past may be but an earnest of what the future has in store for it.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt from Supt. R. O. Johnson of a copy of an excellent little work entitled "Outlines for 1895-6," prepared for the use of the officers and teachers of the Indiana School for the deaf. It is a very convenient work and evidently of very considerable practical utility.

### Official Visit of the Hon. J. M. Gibson.

On the 22nd ult. the officers, teachers and pupils had the pleasure for the second time of welcoming to the Institution Hon. J. M. Gibson, Provincial Secretary, the member of the Government in charge of the Institution accompanied by Dr. Chamberlain on his first official inspection for the year. The distinguished visitors arrived about noon and at once visited the dining room where they beheld the very interesting and popular gastronomic exercises prescribed for the pupils three times a day. After lunch at Superintendent Mathison's the two gentlemen spent two hours in the various class rooms viewing the work of the classes as ordinarily carried on. It is needless to say that they were exceedingly interested and pleased with all they saw and took special interest in watching the work done in the first form classes with the new pupils, the progress of some of which greatly surprised them. They were also much interested in the work of the articulation class in which they spent considerable time. They also visited the shops and printing office and were much pleased to remark the efficiency attained by some of the pupils in their work.

### IN THE CHAPEL

Shortly before four o'clock Mr. Gibson and Dr. Chamberlain were escorted by Mr. Mathison into the chapel where all the pupils and teachers were assembled to receive them.

Mr. Mathison, in introducing Mr. Gibson, bade him a hearty welcome to the Institution. He explained to the pupils that Mr. Gibson had charge of all the public institutions in the Province, and if they wanted anything they write to Dr. Chamberlain who presents their request to Mr. Gibson, who always grants it if it is possible. In the past he had seldom asked in vain, but they have other wants for the future which he hoped would also be favorably considered. Mr. Gibson had come to see for himself just what was being done and what is required for the future. Nothing special had been prepared for the occasion, as it was desired that he should see the regular, every day work of the classes and shops. They wanted to show him exactly what is being done in the way of educating the deaf. He can see for himself that the number in attendance is very large amounting now to 275, which is more than they ever had before, and which is thirty or forty more than there is adequate accommodation for. Before Mr. Gibson left, plans for a new school building would be presented to him and they all hoped he would see his way clear to provide for its erection next year. He has also explained to Mr. Gibson that the classes at present are too large for the best work, much larger than in any similar institution in the United States, and he was going to urge Mr. Gibson to provide a new school building and more teachers, so that there would be fewer pupils in each class. They would now all be glad to know just what Mr. Gibson thought of them.

Mr. Gibson said that he was exceedingly pleased to see them all once more and to have so many tangible evidences of the good work that was going on in the Institution. He was glad that no special preparation had been made as it was much more satisfactory for him to see their ordinary every day work. His duties as Provincial Secretary are very numerous and diverse, and this is only one of a large number of institutions over which his responsibility extended. But he always regarded this Institution as one of the most interesting and useful in the Province. In fact he might say without flattery that he had always regarded it as the most interesting of all. The government were often severely criticised because of their expenditure of public money but he had never yet heard any fault found with nor any adverse criticism of the money spent for this Institution. All public men admit its necessity and all bear testimony to the excellent work that is being done here. He also felt, what is also admitted by all who knew anything about the Institution that in Mr. Mathison they have a most excellent Superintendent. Mr. Mathison thoroughly understood the wants and necessities of the Institution and never failed to let the government

know when anything was required. Mathison, he was glad to say, was not only favorably known in this country but also throughout the whole of Canada as a most able administrator, an excellent and successful principal, and also pleased, and the government was pleased, that the member of Mr. Mathison's staff were all so thoroughly thoughtful in the discharge of their duties. It would have been a pleasure to himself if he could have spent more time in the classrooms and had exemplified more completely the work employed in carrying on the education from the lowest class to the highest, but he had no longer at his disposal. But it was most gratifying to know that those who come here a few years are able to return home and take good positions in life and with their destinies so successfully fulfilled, much better than they otherwise would have been able to do. They have their spheres in life to fill, and some had greater responsibilities than others, yet he thought he had done his best in his own sphere, matter how humble, has done as well as the greatest and uncharged his duty in life. If he did not come here more frequently it was because he was fully satisfied that at Belleville at least all was going on right, and he was satisfied that the interests of the Institution and the welfare of the pupils were in good safe in the hands of their superintendent and his diligent, conscientious and enthusiastic staff who wished every boy and girl present success in their studies and abundance of joy and happiness throughout their lives.

Dr. Chamberlain also spoke and he said he saw them all quite often. He always found them happy and contented. Mr. Gibson had come here to see for himself the work that was being done in the classroom. Mr. Gibson is a member of the Ontario Government and of the government, out of the things furnished by the people, supplied the things necessary for the comfort and welfare of the pupils. This is the order that the pupils might acquire an education and also a suitable one, that when they go out from here they will not only be able to earn well for their support but also become good and intelligent citizens, able to fill their places beside the working people. He hoped that the pupils were all making the best possible use of this opportunity and were taking full advantage of their excellent Superintendent and efficient staff. He believed all the boys and girls were doing this, for he never seen an institution where the pupils took a greater interest in their studies. It was always very gratifying to him to see how quick and eager the children were to absorb the knowledge imparted to them. He was glad to see them at play, and he had no doubt that they were always good natured and kind to each other. He was glad to know that at present there was no pupil confined to bed by illness, and he hoped they would all continue to enjoy good health during the session. He hoped that they would be always obedient and remember that they were here they were forming their character for all their future lives. The officers and teachers here were not working faithfully merely for the sake of a financial benefit but because they were very anxious that the deaf children of Ontario should be fully equal to those of any other country. He was very pleased to notice always that the teachers were kind to each other as well as to the children and he was glad that there was the mutual confidence between the Superintendent and his staff. This is what should be, for no efficient work can be done where ill feeling and antagonism exists, and if over the time comes when harmony shall cease to prevail then the usefulness of the Institution will be at an end. He wished for all of them the greatest amount of success and happiness throughout the session, and he would ask Mr. Mathison to mark the occasion of Mr. Gibson's visit by giving the children a holiday.

Mr. Mathison complied with the request with the hearty and unanimous concurrence of the pupils, and took a holiday for Friday afternoon, when he promised to send the older pupils to the cosmorama in the drill shed.

A number of the girls then came on the platform and signed two beautiful and with such expression and pathos that the visitors were deeply touched.