



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

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

R. MATHISON, Associate Editor.
J. B. ASHLEY, Associate Editor.

OUR MISSION

- First - That a number of our pupils may learn typesetting, 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.

ADVERTISING

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

ROY V. BOMERVILLE, 106 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1894.

OUR SCHOOL.

THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

Promptly upon the opening of the Provincial Legislature the reports of all the public institutions were ready for distribution. We have the twenty third annual report of this school, which is interesting, because highly complimentary to the management and general work done. The government Inspector, Dr. T. F. Chamberlain, reports favorably to the Provincial Secretary and Lieutenant-Governor. We quote from his report as follows:—

The object of the Institution for the Deaf, located at Belleville, is to transform a helpless class into happy and useful citizens. That this has been accomplished very successfully during the past years of the Institution, it is only necessary to refer to the examinations of the Public School Inspectors who were directed to examine and report as to the proficiency of the different shops used for teaching pupils in the different trades and callings, namely, the carpenter shop, shoemaker, tailoring, dressmaking, bakery, domestic work, printing office, etc. The records of those who have attended for the full course of seven years, and have graduated, and gone out into the world useful and intelligent citizens, are all of interest and encouragement.

During the official year there were 102 males and 136 females under instruction at the Institution as pupils. The cost per pupil for maintenance during the year was \$176.11. The receipts from the farm exchange account for the year ending Sept. 30th, amounted to \$695.28, and the expenditures on same account was \$586.62. The Inspector says: "The management of Mr. Mathison is all that could be desired. The sawage system established a year ago is doing its work well and fully meeting our expectations as to its utility. There is a good supply of water for all purposes."

The Superintendent, in his report to the Inspector, makes a strong plea for a longer term for scholastic training. He also advocates the teaching a few common trades well, rather than a variety indifferently. The post graduate course in trade instruction is mentioned and commended. Referring to our industries Mr. Mathison says:—

In the printing office, besides the publication of THE CANADIAN MUTE, there was turned out a considerable amount of job printing for the pur-

poses of the Institution. From the shoe shop we filled respectable orders for the asylums of the Province at the prices they would have had to pay to ordinary shoemakers. We have on hand a few hundred dollars worth of stock that we would like to dispose of. The output from this department amounted during the year to about \$1000. The boys in the carpenter shop with the foreman and assistant did a great deal of work, which, if it had been charged for in the regular way, would have amounted to over \$1,000. Repairs on the main building, Superintendent's house, Bursar's house, laundry, farmer's house, farm buildings, and general repairs kept them busy the greater part of the year.

On the girls side, the new clothing for boys and girls and the mending gave employment to three or four girls during the day and quite a number after school hours. One lad who was in the printing office last year has a steady situation as a compositor in a Lindsay newspaper office. Two or three boys during the vacation made a little money for themselves by working as compositors. Several of the shoe shop graduates have now steady places and are making enough to keep them. A young man who finished his trade in the bakery last term is working and doing well in Kingston. Another young fellow who is a good tailor is independent and earns his own living, while others are helping their parents at home.

The increase in the cost of maintenance of \$100 per pupil, as compared with the previous year, is accounted for by the extra expenditure incurred for the city water, the labor and chemicals required in the sewage works, an increased amount of fuel owing to the severity of last winter, and the necessity for some extra repairs that were not contemplated when the year began. The increase is a justifiable one, and is not caused by any want of economy or oversight on the part of the officers of the Institution.

The Examiner, Mr. Arthur Brown, P. S. I for Dundas Co., reports fully and generally very favorably upon the results of his examination of the literary work done in the school. He remarks:—

As before, the questions submitted were based strictly upon the Limit Tables and upon the work covered during the session by the respective classes. These questions were designed to ascertain the pupils' language power, their quickness and neatness in penmanship, their knowledge of numbers, and, in the advanced classes, their ability to apply this knowledge to the solution of problems in business transactions, their facility in composition, as shown by letter writing, and essays on familiar topics.

In mental arithmetic up to the limit of their work, the children showed surprising correctness, and the same may be said of the spelling, a well-spelled word being of very rare occurrence. The penmanship also was excellent.

In composition, both in "Picture Description" and in letter and essay writing, the language was very correct, and in the advanced classes showed a pretty wide range of ideas.

The "Miscellaneous Language Exercise" consisted of questions selected from papers on all the subjects taught—grammar, geography, history, temperance, etc., and the general correctness of the answers is a good indication that these subjects had been thoroughly taught.

It is safe to add the observation that the unusual success of the literary training of the pupils of the Institution arises from a practical common-sense course of study adapted to the capacity and needs of the inmates, consistent with itself, and carried out uniformly and with unanimity by a competent and willing staff of teachers.

We have good reason to be satisfied with the standing of our school in both the literary and mechanical departments. The inspections and examinations are conducted by persons thoroughly qualified for the work, and are entirely free from local influences. The present session promises well, and we hope the final results will be equally satisfactory.

This from the *Lone Star Weekly* maintains the position we have taken on the same subject.—"Mr. Smith of the *Companion* in speaking of the discussion in the January number of the *Annals*, between Superintendent Clarke of the Michigan school and Mr. Blatter of this school, as to whether the pupils should be started in the present or the past tense, says that a person reading the arguments of the one might be persuaded to his way of thinking, and upon reading the arguments set forth by the other agree with him. His mind, so to speak, would undergo a sort of now-you-see-it-now-you-don't process. Some such experience was ours when we read the article by Mr. Jenkins of Hartford upon the sign language in the last number of the *Educator*, and Mr. Davidson's review of it. Mr. Jenkins' article bespeaks the scholar, and as a defense of the sign language it is a master-piece. In our opinion it has rarely been equalled and perhaps never surpassed. The review of his arguments by Mr. Davidson is equally powerful. His criticisms are clear cut, incisive and logical. When the discriminating reader is led into conflicting attitudes of mind by two such thinkers and masters in intellectual fencing there must certainly be strong arguments on both sides of the question at issue, and ordinary mortals had best be slow in rendering judgment upon either. We accordingly hold our peace."

Prof. W. G. Jones, of the New York School, recently gave a "reading" from "The Hunchback," in St. Ann's Church of that city, before an audience of forty deaf persons. The "reading" was given in signs, and consumed three mortal hours. We don't know which to admire most, Mr. Jones' tenacity of purpose or the patience and forbearance of his auditors. Was it not just a little too much of the good thing at one time? An oral discourse of half that duration might be highly interesting to keep an audience awake; and when given in signs the strain on the concentrated vision of the signer was watched half the time must have been wearisome, and productive of somnolency.

The new paper, to be published at Chicago, in the interest of the deaf, will be under the editorial control of Mr. R. P. McGregor, of the Ohio School, so we are informed. Mr. McGregor's views on educational matters are well known, and some writers are predicting a rabid opposition to oralism, as a distinctive feature of the new paper. We hope not. While Mr. McGregor will no doubt be a recognized champion of a system that has made him a deaf-mute the peer of most men, intellectually and otherwise, we believe he will offer no factious opposition to the oralists or their system. In such a matter we can afford to be charitable, and consistent with the principles involved.

Supt. Clarke, of the Michigan School, is a recognized authority on matters pertaining to the education of the deaf. He believes that progress towards a more perfect education depends now more upon the skill and faithfulness of the teacher, and constantly decreasing the size of the class, than upon improvements in either system or text-book. All of which we endorse. The system now in general favor is all right, and text-books are not much of a factor in the education of the deaf. A reasonably small class and a competent teacher with the means now employed, will accomplish great results.

The multitude of editors who fill the pages of the *Missouri Record* with original ideas on a multitude of subjects, want their *confreres* to be more careful hereafter about giving them due credit for articles clipped or copied partly. They also object to the brief and indefinite "Ex." when attached to anything they have written. This caution we find in one column of a recent issue of the *Record*, and in another column appears an article entitled—"Give them a Chance," which we know originated not far from our office, and which is credited to "Ex." What does the "Golden rule" teach, friends?

The *Weekly News* makes a good suggestion, which all honest editors of the institution papers should heed. The compositions and notes contributed by pupils do not always appear in print just as they were written. They are generally subjected to a little pruning, which improves their appearance and enhances their value as "original" efforts. The editors should acknowledge this.

A good many of our exchanges comment favorably on the "post graduate" course for deaf pupils in the mechanical and trade departments, as inaugurated at this school, and recommend a general adoption of such a plan. The *Missouri Record* says "One or two years spent entirely at some trade, after completing their time in school, would be a substantial benefit to them."

Ontario Deaf-Mute Association

The meetings of the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association will take place at the Institution on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th of June next.

The *Silent World* says in a popular disease known as the "black fever" that has caused about eight per cent of the deafness in northern Pennsylvania, has again broken out. This disease is said to either kill or maim. Its prevalence in the state is confined almost exclusively to the northwestern section, and no satisfactory explanation of it has yet been given.

The *Dakota Advertiser* wants us to write about the deaf, or places where they are educated, to use the term "School for the Deaf," and discard the absurd and improper one of "Institution." We have been trying to rid our columns of the latter term, but like other absurdities more popular it dies hard.

The *Companion* is generally right. It suggests that work in the industrial departments of our schools should also be subjected to an examination by competent persons. Why not? It is an important part of the whole, and should be thoroughly taught.

The art of engraving is to be introduced into the Illinois School. It is an art the deaf can excel in, and it is also a profitable one. Supt. Walker is moving in the right direction again.

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

The *Companion* announces the purchase of a new outfit, and also hints of other improvements soon. May power to our Minnesota *confreres*. It is now one of the best papers published in the interest of the deaf.

The *Western Pennsylvania* is one year old, and is willing to be judged by appearances. We accord it most cheerfully a yearling, and a second place to very few of any age. It is a vigorous specimen of the institution press. May it increase in influence as it grows older.

BRANTFORD ITEMS.

From a Correspondent.
Mrs. Henry Gotlieb, of Milton came here on the 8th of February. She visited her parents and friends and was satisfied to spend some days with them.

Mr. Robert Sutton preaches to the mutes in the Y. M. C. A. rooms in a good sign maker.

Miss Sarah Foulds will go back to Hamilton at the end of February. She is a dressmaker. We all wish her success.

Mr. James Goodbrand will leave for Good Friday and go back to Amherst.

Mr. Charles Golds, of Milton was visiting his old friends in Brantford last month.

Mr. Emil Gotlieb got another job as an ironer, and he went to Berlin again on the 8th of February. His wife and child are in Brantford still.

Misses Ethel and Mabel, of Waterford, came here on New Year's Day. They wanted to see their deaf mute friends but could not find them.

Archie Smith has a young son. He is thinking of living on the farm again.

Five of the mutes here went for a drive to Preston on the 10th, but the rig broke down near Paris and they had to return to Brantford.

Some deaf-mutes had a party at Mr. and Mrs. J. Lloyd's place. They enjoyed themselves.

William Stenabough has gone to Hamburg on a business trip.

Miss Anne Mathison, of Belleville is a guest of Mrs. James Watt.

DIED.

On Tuesday, at Bagin, on the 2nd Feb., William Daniel, son of James and Christiana Margaret Ormiston, aged 15 months, and 21 days. He was buried on the 4th day and died of croup and pneumonia.