



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 spelling, 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.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE,

ONTARIO



MONDAY, APRIL 1, 1893.

Our Report for 1891.

The twenty-fourth annual report of this Institution was presented to the Legislature promptly at the beginning of the season, and is of unusual interest and value, since it discusses somewhat fully several matters of importance to deaf-mutes. Its distinctive features are opinions collated relative to the number of pupils that should be in a class, and to the length of the school term. The Superintendent discusses these matters fully and frankly. He points out the difficulties encountered in teaching the deaf as compared with the hearing, and shows how impossible it is for a teacher with a class of twenty to do the best work. Fourteen, he thinks, should be the maximum number in a class, which is more than is allowed in the best American institutions. He also asks that the school term be extended to ten years. Even that is less than most hearing children have, though these enter school with a good vocabulary already formed, while most deaf-mutes do not know a single word of the English language. The Superintendent's argument is followed and supported by the written opinion of every teacher in the Institution.

The other information contained in the report is of a more general and routine character. The visit of the Governor-General, the opening of the Gibson hospital, and the deaf-mute convention are all noted as special features of the year, while the usual detailed statistics are given covering the whole period from the establishment of the Institution to the present time.

About forty per cent of all the pupils who have been admitted into the Institution are congenital deaf-mutes, while over thirty per cent of those not born deaf lost their hearing before they reached the age of three.

Inspector Chamberlain's remarks refer

to the Institution indicate that satisfactory progress is being made, or as good progress as is possible in view of the too large classes and short term. He says that he "finds greater advancement than in former years on account of the excellency of the staff of officers and the utilization to better advantage of the knowledge obtained during the past years' experiences and the improved facilities in appliances and conveniences for caring for and instructing the pupils." Dr. Chamberlain, who has looked into the matter pretty fully, is also of the opinion that the number of pupils assigned to each class here is quite too large, and also that the school term should be extended to at least ten years. It is to be hoped that ere long these recommendations will be carried out.

Neglected Children.

The second annual report of Mr. J. J. Kelso, Superintendent of the Children's Protection Societies for Ontario, is a very interesting and instructive document of some 120 pages. Though this Act has been in operation for only two years much good has already been accomplished. Local societies have been organized in a number of places and many children rescued from cruel, negligent or immoral parents and guardians. Mr. Kelso asks that the Act be so amended that its provisions will apply also to the country districts. When this is done and when the Province is completely organized, untold good will result and thousands of children will every year be placed under favorable conditions for becoming useful and honorable citizens who otherwise would almost certainly have gone to swell the flood of vice and crime. This Act is one of the many good things for which the Province is indebted to the Hon. Mr. Gibson, and no more capable or earnest Superintendent of neglected children could have been selected than Mr. Kelso.

The Halifax Institution.

The annual report of the Halifax Institution for the deaf and dumb has just been received, from which it appears that this excellent Institution is keeping right up to the times. The attendance last year was 77, of whom 45 were boys and 32 girls. The expenditures aggregated \$11,450. The most gratifying information contained in the report is that a fine new building will be erected this summer to meet the growing demands for adequate accommodation. Further particulars relative to this will appear in another issue. On the occasion of bidding farewell to the old building Principal Fearson gives a short historical sketch of the Institution. It was established in 1850, and was the first school for the deaf in Canada which received legislative assistance. During that period the Institution has educated 390 deaf persons, nearly all of whom are now useful, intelligent and self-supporting citizens. This Institution evidently has a progressive Board of Directors, and in Mr. Fearson it has an energetic and successful principal.

The Fourth Congress in connection with the British Deaf and Dumb Association will take place in Dublin, Ireland, during the month of August next. It promises to be a great success and hopes are entertained that increased interest in the deaf and dumb of Ireland will accrue from the gathering. Those who attend will have a chance of visiting the famous Lakes of Kiltinney, which would be an inducement for any one to go. We were there many years ago and another visit would give us untold pleasure. The kind invitation to us to attend may be accepted, if we can arrange matters satisfactorily.

Another Story about Helen Kellor.

In the last issue of *Munsey's Magazine* there is an excellent picture of Helen Kellor, and a short and appreciative article relative to her career. This, however, is quite spoiled by another of the many incredible stories of her achievements. The following is an extract: "Music is one of her delights, although she cannot hear a sound with her ears. The measured notes vibrate through her body, and give her exquisite pleasure. She has a just and intelligent appreciation of different composers from having literally felt their music; Schumann is her favorite." We cannot credit a word of this story. We are aware that the apostles of the science of telepathy claim vast possibilities for the so-called sixth, or psychic sense, and it is avowed that some persons can now hold intercourse with others without verbal or written language; that mind reads mind and impressions are received without the intermediation of the ordinary channels of sense. To some small degree this sense is developed in all of us, but we cannot believe that harmony of sound can be absorbed and appreciated by a deaf person. This is quite different from telepathic influence. Some scientists, it is true, claim that every phenomenon in the material, mental and even spiritual world is produced by vibration, to which it is just possible Helen Kellor may be so abnormally sensitive as to be able to enjoy music; but despite this possible explanation we still must decline to credit the assertion made in *Munsey*. Helen is beyond doubt a wonderful girl, and writers should be satisfied with authenticated stories of her marvellous exploits, and stop inventing new ones.

News from the Inner Circle.

The devil certainly smiles when he hears a parent say "anybody can teach my child, he is little and doesn't know much." Ignorance leads to crime and crime leads to the devil.—*Florida School Exponent*.

Yes, and his satanic majesty judges encouragingly when he hears an illiterate person say, "I know enough to teach a class of mutes."—*Long Star Weekly*.

Yes, yes, but it is when the devil hears a person who professes to know how to teach the deaf declares that "oral methods are sufficient," and declines against the sign language, that his satanic majesty's joy passes all bounds and he kicks up his heels and roars until the infernal regions resound with the echoes of his horrible laughter.—*Dakota Banner*.

This is all very funny, and no doubt quite authentic. But we are sorry that we cannot add any further items of information relative to the doings of the "old boy," since we are not on speaking acquaintance with him. The able and erudite gentlemen who penned the above quoted paragraphs appear to be on quite friendly terms with what we are evidently justified in calling "their friend his satanic majesty," since they seem to have an intimate knowledge, not only of his doings but of his thoughts and opinions. We advise them to cut his acquaintance.

The *Minnesota Companion* comments on the fact that very few of the deaf become farmers, an occupation that is very suitable for them. The reason for this, the *Companion* thinks, is because of the isolation and loneliness of a deaf farmer. None of the sweet sounds of nature make music in his ears, and in nearly all cases he cannot hold intercourse with his neighbors. Hence the deaf prefer to earn a precarious living in the city, where there are other deaf-mutes with whom they can converse. The remedy suggested by the *Companion* for this undesirable state of affairs is for a number of deaf-mutes to acquire farms in the same section of country and with-in easy visiting distance. Thus they could hold intercourse with each other and in that case no doubt their hearing neighbors would find it to their advantage also to learn sufficient of the sign language and manual alphabet to be able to communicate with their deaf friends.

Another pretty tough story is fathered by the *Minnesota Companion*. It avers that in St. Paul a deaf-mute lady is not only a good musician, but is also a successful teacher of music to hearing children. This may be true, but it puts a pretty strong strain on the credulity.

Mr. George C. Mathison, son of the Superintendent, is now in the senior class of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons for Ontario, having been successful in passing the recent examinations. Congratulations.

Gulling the Public.

From the earliest period there has always been a tendency on the part of educators of the deaf to pose as miracle workers. Much harm has been done to the cause by mistaken enthusiasts seeking to arouse the sympathy of the charitable by exhibitions got up for effect. But the mischief done has been chiefly confined only to misleading and mystifying the public.

History repeats itself, and in this enlightened age we find certain of our leading men still resorting to these practices. It seems very strange that they should stoop to such devices, when they must know that their colleagues, if not the public, do not credit them. Possibly their reasons for so doing may be found in the fact that results of honest teaching fail to satisfy their ambition, as it fails to satisfy every teacher's. This is not a sufficient reason.

Although the mischievous effects of such practices have shown themselves but little during the past, the time has come when the greatest injury may be caused to the work of education, the pupils themselves, and to their teachers. When we read accounts of children of school age, born stone deaf, capable of reading intelligently Shakespear and Milton, and repeating one hundred and fifty or so lines of these authors, and explaining the words and allusions in the same, we feel very much inclined to write the able instructor and beg for the patent. Doubtless we should do so if we did not know the amount of truth such a statement must contain.

Honest hard-working teachers every now and then have their pride in their own pupils humbled, by meeting with marvellous productions of deaf-mutes in the shape of compositions upon various subjects, the fraudulent nature of which are apparent to all. They are cleverly written, but the disguise is not good enough. The most extraordinary feature of these essays is that the majority of them have no grammatical error or "deaf-mutism" noticeable. Such practices as these point clearly to the fact these instructors have not the cause of true education at heart, but their own honor and glory.

The time is fast approaching when all this must come to an end; the light of Government inspection will be thrown upon these dark doings. In the meantime, however, the Inspector must be misled by the apparently wonderful work of the children and the astounding assertions of the instructors. He will expect, and most justly so, to find similar if not better results when inspecting. Granting that one or two bright children may be found to do extra good work in every one of our schools, it is folly to produce them, as is so frequently done, as samples of the whole school. The strength of a chain should be judged by its weakest links.

If the public eyes were opened to the magnitude of our work their sympathy would be obtained more freely. Adopting this, the true course, we have nothing to fear and everything to hope for.

Although we are strongly opposed to gulling the public we are by no means pessimistic in our views as to the possible attainments of the deaf. We echo the hope expressed by Dr. R. Elliot in last November's issue of the *British Deaf Mute*—"That we may see the time when the deaf may contribute their quota in due proportion to their number to the higher ranks of literature, science and art."—*British Deaf Mute*.

DIED.

May—In Avonton, on March 4th, Christina, the first daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haged 9 months and 5 days.