



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 type-setting, 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



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1897.

Deaf Mute Children in the Territories and British Columbia.

A PLEA FOR THEIR EDUCATION.

The time surely has arrived when proper educational facilities should be provided for those deaf children who reside in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories. For many years the parents and friends of these deaf mutes have been urging on the government the necessity of a movement in this direction, which is demanded both by justice and expediency, and the CANADIAN MUTE has aided their endeavors to the best of its ability. Up to the present, however, these efforts have been unavailing, so far as practical results are concerned, though they have not been wasted, since a public sentiment has been created which the authorities will not be much longer able to withstand. The Manitoba Government was willing to enlarge the Institution at Winnipeg and admit the deaf children from the Northwest at a fair pro rata charge, but the Dominion Government has never agreed to the proposal—or rather they have agreed to it theory but have never carried it out in practice. It would perhaps now be better, and more economical in the end, to abandon that project and erect a school for the deaf at Regina or some other suitable and central locality. This would seem advisable especially in view of the rapid increase in population in Manitoba and the Northwest, in consequence of which the time is not far distant when one school would not be sufficient for all the deaf throughout those immense districts. The work of

teaching the deaf is one that requires special training on the part of teachers, and should a school not be established in the Territories till the population approximates that of Ontario, it would be quite impossible to obtain in Canada a staff of qualified teachers. If, however, a small school is now established, the two or three teachers that would be required could easily be obtained, and then, by the addition of a new teacher at intervals as might be required, a competent staff would be gradually secured sufficient to meet the requirements when the number of deaf pupils becomes much greater than it is now. It would seem, also, that the time has arrived when the duty of providing a school for the deaf devolves upon the Council of the Territories, rather than upon the Dominion Government. To that Council has recently been granted enlarged powers and a considerably greater subsidy, and it now enjoys nearly all the functions of a Provincial Legislature, and should also accept the corresponding responsibilities. This would appear to be all the more incumbent on the Council in view of the fact that it already has control of the schools and educational system of the Territories, and we see no reason why it should not round out that system by providing a school for the deaf. The people in the Northwest pride themselves on the fact that their per capita expenditure for educational purposes is much greater than in any of the Provinces, and that the school attendance is 95 per cent of the school population, which percentage also exceeds that in other parts of Canada. All this certainly redounds very much to their credit, but so long as the deaf are denied equal privileges with the hearing, and are shut out in the outer darkness of ignorance, this proud boast is a vain one. The supreme test of civilization is the extent to which the afflicted classes are cared for, and we hope the people in the Northwest will see to it that this reproach against them, that of neglecting the deaf, shall no longer exist. It is not charity the deaf ask for, but simply justice, simply an equal advantage in the battle of life with the hearing, simply that they also may have, by the aid of their fellow citizens, the same privileges which their parents now help to provide for hearing children. Public opinion is already strong in favor of establishing such a school and we hope it will speedily compel action. The Regina Leader recently referred to the matter in the following terms:—

The press and people of the Territories ought to "keep pushing away" at the Government, both Dominion and local, until such time as the matter of arranging for the care of the deaf and dumb in the Northwest. Our attention is again called to the question by a note in an Edmonton paper which recited that Mrs. Gainer, of Edmonton, took her son to the Winnipeg Institute, where she found that there was room for him, but found also that "certain negotiations with the Government were necessary before he could be placed there." The boy was obliged to return home. There are between thirty and forty children in the Territories who by the stupidity of the authorities are being condemned to a state of mental darkness, which is well described in an article in the CANADIAN MUTE.

It surely would be a lamentable and most discreditable thing were these 80 or 40 children to grow up in enforced ignorance, yet so it must be unless the Council comes to their aid. There is now one girl from the Territories at the Winnipeg Institution, for which privilege her parents have to pay. Now these same parents pay their fair proportion of taxes towards providing a free education for the hearing children in that section, and it is grossly unjust that, in addition, they should be compelled to educate their own child at their own expense. It is as much their neighbor's duty to help pay for the deaf child's education as it is for its parents to contribute, as they now do, towards the education of these neighbors' children. But apart from this consideration of

equal justice, it is quite probable that a majority of the parents of these 10 deaf children cannot afford to send them to Winnipeg, so that the government—that is, the people—must help to educate them or they must remain ignorant, and therefore, to a large extent, helpless.

These same considerations apply equally to British Columbia. There must be at least 25 or 30 deaf children in that Province. The Government has this year sent three deaf pupils to the Winnipeg Institution where they are maintained at the public expense. But what about all the others? Are they to be deprived of an education? Surely that progressive and wealthy Province would not allow this. To show how anxious the parents and friends of these deaf children are to have them educated, we quote the following letter—which is but one of several of similar tenor—written to the Superintendent of this Institution by a resident of Bella Coola, B. C.:—

There is in this valley an eight year old boy who is deaf and dumb. As he is very bright and intelligent and his parents are anxious to send him to school, kindly let us know if you can accept him at your Institution and in case you cannot, then to give us a suggestion as to what we might do for him here at home.

Of course we were obliged to refuse permission to have him sent here, and we have refused others, as we have not adequate accommodation for all the deaf who reside in Ontario; and so this bright little fellow is doomed to grow up and live in ignorance and helplessness, unless the people of British Columbia are prepared to do their duty in this regard. We would respectfully suggest that Institutions be established both in the Territories and in British Columbia under the direct control of the educational departments. The cost of buildings sufficient for present requirements would not be great—possibly buildings could be found suitable for starting at once small schools, and further facilities could be provided according to growing needs. Both British Columbia and the Northwest are on the eve of an unprecedented development, both of them possess potential wealth almost beyond computation; to both there will flow during the coming years a steady stream of immigration; and now is the time to lay broad and deep foundations, such as will secure to every child a liberal education, and thus establish on a firm basis the same high standard of intelligence, morality and good citizenship as prevails in Ontario.

We have always admired the ability which is displayed from week to week in the columns of the Michigan Mirror, in which have appeared many of the best articles relative to matters connected with the education of the deaf, and on various other subjects, that we have seen. In its issue of the 21st ult., however, we think, with all due modesty, that its editorial column surpassed in interest and value all previous issues. For why? Because they were filled chiefly with copious citations from the CANADIAN MUTE. In all seriousness, however, we were well pleased to see our esteemed contemporary manifest so kindly a spirit, and we accept with pleasure its concessions and apologies. After all, we gladly express our conviction that the United States is a great country, and that, next to Canadians and Britishers, the Americans are the greatest people on earth. We rejoice with all our heart the hope that the time is not far distant when United States, Canada and Britain will form a confederacy or alliance, and then "Let come the whole wide world in arms and we shall shock them," for confederated Anglo-Saxondom could easily rule the world and impose its superior civilization on all nations.

A Deaf Girl's Longing for Education.

We submit to the careful perusal of our readers the following letter, written during the past summer to a member of the Superintendent's family. The writer attended this Institution for three years, when her parents removed to British Columbia. The letter is in touching words the intense longing these deaf children have for educational advantages, and at the same time illustrates very fairly the difficulty of partially educated mutes having in pressing themselves in correct language, while incidentally it also gives a good indication of what can be accomplished for the deaf during an ordinary school term.—

KNIGHT INLET, B. C. JUNE 11, 1897.

MY DEARER FRIENDS—I am sitting down on a beautiful morning to write you this letter to tell you a wonderful news. Can you guess what it is? Oh it is about me going to Winnipeg Institution. I am fully happy that I shall know what to do. I received a long kind letter from the Government of B. C. which he wrote my father. The Government is preparing to pay my education, boarding and lodging for a period of two years. He also will pay for travelling this fall. The Government also arranged for two girls to be sent to the Institution and inasmuch as it is desirable that some time should be lost before they start the Government want to know when I will arrive at Victoria and Vancouver and then I will arrange the two girls who will accompany me and I shall be ready at the same time. I have asked Mr. Hall to take me to Alert Bay on the steamer and she told me she will help me all she can. Of course, she will write to the Government and let him know when I will arrive at Victoria. I shall be the happiest girl in the world when I reach the Institution. I need not tell you how mother is so happy about me, she said that she knows I will be industrious studying at school more than at home. Oh dearest friend you could see my sorrow when in great joy. Oh loving Father in Heaven has answered my prayer or at least, because I trust in Him to send me to school in a short time. I cannot tell you how much I am thankful and praising Him for his great kindness to me. Mother says she wants to see all my clothes by all myself and she will make me much better sew before I go to school. I heard that your brother found me in Vancouver about a few weeks ago, so he sent me the newspaper. Oh how I wish I could see you now and tell him I am so happy, oh so happy about school. Before I received a letter from school, I did studying much almost each day, studying the history, the second reader about science and arithmetic and getting on very well all myself but I stopped studying just now and must sew my clothes and buy in the market before I go to the school. I reading so much better than ever I read before. Last week I received a parcel of papers from you which the papers are very interesting that the Harper's Around the Table. Oh my dearest beloved friend I always cannot find a word thankful to you for your great kindness to me. It was you all who help me so much with my writing and studying. Every one thinks I am improving with the B. C. I often think I will see you and your father before long you do not know how much I would dearly love to see you again. About the end of April I wrote a letter to you and hope it reached you all right. The other day I received a letter from an old friend of mine who lives in that Portage that my aunt had a little boy for 7 years, he is deaf and dumb and he never did speak a word not a word yet. I know the dear old Institution will be closed this week but oh I wish the September will be soon for me to go to Winnipeg. I intend to write to Miss Maybes now but I just think she will be away for visiting for holiday. My two sisters are going to Vancouver for spend the midsummer vacation. My father is away, there are only my mother and Eleanor and myself are at home. We expect he will be home in August. I often wonder why Miss Maybes did not show me your letter for three months. Tell your dear father I will be the happiest girl under the sun when I go to the school. I think I will tell you in my next letter when I reach Victoria. With kind and best regards to you, believe me, Your sincerely friend,

ANNIE WARD.

At the great Toronto exhibition this fall one industry which attracted attention was that of card writing by a deaf-mute—a young man from Michigan. He had a small table in the main building and there he placed and announced—"Your name on six cards for ten cents." He was a most excellent and rapid penman and was taking in about ten dollars a day. His table was surrounded by patrons the most of the time and no business there looked more flourishing than his.—Rochester Paper for Little People.

—The session of 1897-8—Winnipeg School—opened under most favorable conditions. The term opened on Wednesday, the 8th September, and we have at the present time 44 pupils. The health of all is good and we hope that by proper care, wholesome food and perfect sanitation that we will escape the usual epidemics that are liable to enter large families like ours. We have altogether nine new pupils,—three from British Columbia, one from the Territories and the remainder from Manitoba. The Government of British Columbia has provided for those coming from that province and it is to be hoped, now that a beginning is made, that others will receive the same benefit. There have been no changes in the staff of teachers. All have returned after a good rest filled with enthusiasm to carry on their work.—Silent Echo.