



# 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 of them 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 postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at an time during the year. Remitt by money order postal notes, 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.

### 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:

THE CANADIAN MUTE,  
BELLEVILLE  
ONTARIO



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1899

### The War.

Many of our advanced pupils are interested in the war and read the papers each day for news. For their especial benefit we give the causes which have led up to the present difficulties.

Britain is now engaged in her first war of any considerable magnitude since the Crimean war of half a century ago. This contest is not of her own seeking but was forced upon her by an act of reckless impudence perhaps unequalled in modern times. The disabilities under which British subjects in the Transvaal suffered, and the oppression and contumely to which they were subjected, were such that Britain was forced to listen to their grievances and to adopt measures for their redress. The conventions of 1881 and 1884 granted certain essential rights and privileges to British residents in the Transvaal. These rights, though much less than is granted in all civilized countries to foreign residents, were almost completely ignored, and for a long time conditions had prevailed that were simply intolerable. The franchise and naturalization could be obtained only by complying with almost impossible conditions, and even children of foreigners who were born in Transvaal were not recognized as citizens, as is done in other countries.

Although the Outlanders could not vote and had no representation in the Volksraad, yet they had to pay nearly the whole of the taxation and were grounded down by imposts and monopolies which were most excessive and oppressive, they were not allowed to teach their children their own language even in private schools supported by themselves but were compelled to use the Boer patron; they were practically without the pale of the laws, since it was impossible for an Outlander to succeed in an action against a Boer

no matter how strong a case he could establish, and various other conditions prevailed which rendered their status little better than that of serfs. To secure freedom from oppressions far less unjust and onerous than these two revolutions have occurred in Great Britain the Americans revolted and gained their liberty and the people of Canada rebelled against their government. The injustice and cruelty with which British residents in Transvaal were treated are presented in all the more striking light when compared with the liberal treatment accorded by Great Britain to the Boers and other Dutch residents in Cape Colony and Natal, where in every respect they are on a par with the British themselves. Although they outnumber the British yet they are allowed the franchise on the same terms as the latter, every office is open to their ambition and they are not only allowed full representation in the Legislature, but even to hold the reins of government, the present premier of Cape Colony being a Dutchman. Every possible effort was made by the Outlanders to have their grievances redressed by the Boers themselves, but all in vain, and at last in their extremity they appealed to the British government, which felt in honor bound to demand for them the common rights of humanity which had been denied them. From the first the British authorities manifested a strong desire for a pacific solution of the difficulty, in proof of which they sent as Commissioner to Cape Town Sir Alfred Milner, a man noted for his peaceful proclivities and his friendly attitude towards the Dutch, whose confidence he enjoyed. From the beginning to the end the negotiations were marked by patient forbearance, moderation, kindly consideration and courtesy on the part of the British, and by irritability, rudeness and violent and offensive language on the part of the Boers. It is doubtful if any other first-class power in the world would have manifested equal patience and forbearance. But it was all in vain. Subsequent developments have clearly demonstrated that the Boers had deliberately determined to prevent a peaceful settlement and to utilize this opportunity of trying to carry into effect their great ambition—to overthrow British supremacy and to establish Dutch domination throughout the whole of South Africa. On Britain's part, therefore, this war is not one of aggression but a war in defence of her territory and her prestige. The real animus of the Boers was manifested by the terms of the ultimatum which practically demanded the withdrawal of the British forces and the abdication of her sovereignty over her South African possessions. Up to the very day that this was sent there was every reason to believe that a peaceful understanding could be arrived at. This, however, was not in accord with Kruger's policy, so, lost pressure which he could not resist should be brought to bear upon him by the friends of peace, his ultimatum was sent—an ultimatum which is unequalled in history in gratuitous offensiveness, an ultimatum which was so worded as to be a deadly insult and to render further negotiations impossible, an ultimatum which has placed the Boers beyond the pale of the world's sympathy and respect, an ultimatum which no first class power would dare to address to another, an ultimatum which Britain would be compelled to resent even though it involved a conflict with the combined forces of Europe. Of course there can be but one issue to this contest. Britain is sending out to South Africa the largest army yet transported to such a distance, an army composed of the finest troops in the world, an army of such magnitude and equipment as will not only render victory sure but will demonstrate so

overwhelmingly the futility of resistance that the loss of life on both sides will be reduced to the minimum.

*The British Deaf Monthly* and *Ephraim* has amalgamated in accordance with the strongly expressed wish of the deaf in Great Britain. The old name, *The British Deaf Monthly*, is retained, and it now unites in itself the best features of the two journals above named. The editors are Messrs Ernest J. D. Abraham, A. Macdonald and George Frankland. The new journal retains its old magazine form and is one of the best conducted and most ably edited papers published in the interests of the deaf. It is a strenuous advocate of the combined method of instruction, declaring that the pure oral system, which is in general use in Great Britain, has been demonstrated to be a complete failure in the case of at least one tenth of the pupils. It asserts, and of the truth of its assertion it produces ample evidence, that the orally taught deaf are incomparably inferior to those taught under the combined system in educational acquirements and in intellectual acumen and strength, and are at the same time much less able to communicate with hearing people with facility and satisfaction. One very significant fact it notes is that just as soon as the orally taught pupils are relieved from the restraints of school they at once, and almost invariably, adopt the use of signs as their favorite method of communication. We wish our contemporary abundant success in its campaign in favor of the rational method of instruction. On this continent the contest has been waged and the victory won, as it assuredly will soon be in Britain and Europe.

*The Arkansas Optic* of the 7th ult contains a vivid account of the disastrous fire which on Sept 30th laid in ashes the handsome Institution for the Deaf at Little Rock. The fire occurred at about two o'clock in the morning from some unknown cause. It is gratifying to know that there were no fatalities nor accidents though there were several narrow escapes. The hospital, colored school laundry and industrial buildings were saved. All the pupils and others who lived in the main buildings lost all their personal belongings except such clothes as they had on them. Fortunately this session had not yet opened and only a few pupils were present. Had the fire occurred a few days later the loss of life might have been frightful. The total loss is about \$200,000 with no insurance. Superintendent Yates has our sincere sympathy for the calamity that has befallen the noble Institution over which he so efficiently presided. The opening of the school has been postponed till after Nov. 15th, by which time it is hoped that temporary quarters can be provided. In addition to this fire the Arkansas Institution has sustained another great loss in the accidental drowning during vacation of Miss Branson, one of the most efficient teachers on the staff.

The Annual Reports for 1898 of the Public Institutions of Manitoba is just to hand. They are all incorporated in one volume of some 150 pages. The whole book was set up and printed at the Institution for the Deaf, and in every respect is a most creditable piece of work and could not be surpassed, we venture to say, by any printing establishment in Winnipeg. The interest and attractiveness of the volume is greatly enhanced by cuts of each of the Public Institutions of the Province and of the Hon. H. Watson, Minister of Public Works. It is, however, with the report of the Institution for the Deaf that we are partic-

ularly interested, and find that the last session was a most successful and satisfactory one. Principal Melville's discussion of the education of the deaf presents a strong plea for both them and the deaf-blind building. If it is desirable that classes shall be educated, he advises that separate provision be made. He also refers to the educational needs of the Territories, and we are glad that at last arrangements are being made for admitting them to the Institution.

In a recent issue of *Providence* there appeared an article by Mr. W. H. Lins, giving a description of a new hand manual alphabet devised by William Bridges of Kansas City. We know that the deaf need no other system of dactylology than the one we have, and beyond a doubt the single-hand system is superior for most purposes to the double-hand system, yet the one described in *Providence* seems to be a simple and effective one. The letters are represented by the thumb and fingers on the right hand, the first five letters of the alphabet, the first joints of the fingers, the next four, the second joints of the fingers, the next four, the third joints of the fingers, and the first finger joints of the hand, the remaining four. The process of spelling out the words is accomplished simply by touching the points representing the letters by the index finger of the other hand. Any fool can do this, and easily draw a diagram and work out a new system for themselves and so show they like it. It would seem to be a better than the present two-hand system, with the added advantage that it can be used to better advantage in the dark, and that when once learned it will never be forgotten.

The sixth Convention of the National Association of the Deaf was held at St. Paul in July last, at which nearly every State in the Union was represented. Before the close of the Convention a following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Convention approves the Combined System as best adapted to secure the proper education of the deaf, and that every effort be made to make any one method, whether oral or manual, the sole means of instruction, equivocally condemned.

This is most important testimony in favor of the Combined System, and is the expression of the opinion of those best qualified to judge, namely, the best educated, most progressive deaf people in the Union. Such a valuable endorsement as this more than offsets volume of theorizing by well meaning but mistaken advocates of pure oralism.

A few days ago we were in receipt of the initial number of *The American Review*, the new educational magazine published by the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf. The first number contains some 130 pages and comprises most interesting and valuable matter, including a report of the summer meeting of the Association. The specific object of the *Review* is to promote in every possible way the teaching of speech to the deaf, but it will also contain matter of value and interest to all teachers of the deaf. Its subscription price is \$2.50 a year, and it will be issued five times a year. Mr. F. W. Booth is the editor, and is just the man for the position.

**BIRTH.**  
FRANK. On the 11th Oct., 1899, at 22 Afton St., Toronto, the wife of Philip Frank, of a son.