



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Your, 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 50 cents a line for each insertion.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO



FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1898.

The Convention.

We desire to heartily congratulate the Ontario Association of the Deaf on the marked success of their Convention at Grimsby Park. This was the sixth convention held since the organization of the Association, and in some respects it was the pleasantest and most enjoyable. Several causes contributed to this result. The weather all through was as nearly perfect as weather could be for such an event. Then the Executive Committee was very happy in their choice of a meeting place. Grimsby Park is one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the Province. Its location and scenic attractions are very fine, it is convenient of access by rail and boat, and its facilities for entertainment, for pastimes of all kinds and for purposes of meeting are admirable in every respect. It is an ideal place for such a gathering as this, and by many the hope was expressed that it might be chosen as the permanent place of meeting, except at such times as the hospitality of the Alma Mater of the deaf may be extended to the Association. The officials of the Park Association, especially Mr. N. Phelps, the President, and Rev. Dr. Burns, did everything in their power to promote the enjoyment and enhance the success of the gathering; and all the residents at the Park manifested the warmest interest in the proceedings, and were most kindly in their attentions. The attendance of the members of the Association was unusually large, and everyone entered very

heartily into the spirit of the occasion. The various sessions were very interesting, despite the fact that the programmes were to a large extent impromptu—perhaps to a considerable degree because of that fact; and the officers manifested good judgment in making the formal programme subordinate to the social feature of the Convention, which latter is after all the chief attraction.

It is difficult to overestimate the pleasure and value of these gatherings to the deaf, and that they are fully appreciated was well illustrated by the practical unanimity with which a proposal to hold the Conventions less frequently was rejected. Many old friendships are thereby renewed and many valuable new ones formed; many matters of mutual interest are discussed and many difficulties cleared away, and fresh encouragement and added stimulus and renewed zeal are imparted. There is a good deal of dreary monotony in the lives of many of the deaf, and these periodical conventions are as "wells of water in a weary land;" and few there are who were present at this last Convention who will ever forget the pleasant cheer, the inspiring meetings in the splendid and unique pavilion, the beautiful scenery of woodland and water, the delightful promenades, the joyous re-unions with old associates, the quiet talks in sequestered nooks and the warm-hearted welcome extended to them at Grimsby Park.

We waited several days for the engraving of the Convention photo to arrive from Toronto. We know that our friends would expect to see it in this issue, and will excuse delay from that cause.

Dr. Westervelt, Principal of the Rochester Institution for the Deaf, and Miss Adella Clara Fay, of Hartford, were married on June 7th, at Hartford, Conn. The happy couple have our sincere good wishes for their prosperity.

The closing exercises at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Halifax, took place on Wednesday, June 29th, and were witnessed by a large crowd of interested people. The Premier of the Province and other prominent citizens, were present. The session just closed is one of the most successful in the history of the Institution, and Principal Fearon is to be congratulated on the result.

Pupils Leave for Home.

This morning, by the early trains east and west, all the pupils from the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb left for their homes under the charge of the officers and teachers. The closing examinations on paper were held the last week in May and the official inspection was made on the following week, and both were satisfactory. The session just closed has been one of the most pleasant and successful in the history of the Institution. Both teachers and pupils enjoyed a remarkable immunity from illness, and the nine months of steady, faithful, uninterrupted effort in the class rooms and shops has entitled them to the well-earned rest of the vacation. A considerable number of the pupils have completed their course and will not return again, but there are many applications for entry for new pupils, and no doubt next session the attendance will be quite equal to that of the past. The next term will commence on the 21st of September.—Belleville Ontario, June 15.

The Two Gates.

A pilgrim once (so runs an ancient tale),
Old, worn, and spent, crept down a shadowed vale.
On either hand rose mountains bleak and high:
'Till was the gusty air, and dark the sky;
The path was rugged, and his feet were bare,
His faded cheek was scathed by pain and care;
His heavy eyes upon the ground were cast,
And every step seemed feebler than the last.

The valley ended where a naked rock
Rose sheer from earth to heaven, as if to mock
The pilgrim who had crept that tollsome way,
But while his dim and weary eyes essay
To find an outlet in the mountain side
A ponderous sculptured bronze door he spied,
And tottering toward it with fast-falling breath,
Above the portal read,—"The Gate of Death."

He could not stay his feet, that led thereto,
It yielded to his touch, and passing through,
He came into a world all bright and fair:
Blue were the heavens, and balmy was the air;
And, lo! the blood of youth was in his veins,
And he was clad in robes that held no stain
Of his long pilgrimage. Amazed, he turned:
Behold a golden door behind him burned
In that fair sunlight, and his wondering eyes,
Now lustreful and clear as those new skies,
Free from the mists of age, of care and strife,
Above the portal read,—"The Gate of Life!"

—Selected.

TORONTO TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent.

The monthly meeting for June was held on Saturday, the 4th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Mason, No. 1 Garden Avenue, instead of at Mr. Bridgen's, as formerly, on account of alterations being made at the latter's place. There was a very large attendance, over 70 being present. The meeting did not open till nearly nine o'clock as the evening was so fine that a large number preferred remaining outside the house as long as it was light enough to talk. All seemed to be in excellent spirits. The programme for the evening had been prepared beforehand, it being a debate as to the comparative happiness of women and men's lives. Mr. Fraser was chosen to lead the men's side of the debate, while Misses M. Ball and M. Campbell led the women's side. At length when the meeting was called to order by Mr. Bridgen, it was discovered that Mr. Fraser thought he had been selected to lead the women's side and had come prepared to do battle for the "women's rights," as it may be termed. Some one in the audience called out "traitor," but it was put in as a joke. After a little rearranging, Mr. Slater was requested to fill Mr. Fraser's place on the men's side. The debate was open, as usual, to give all a chance to have their say, time being limited to ten minutes each. After a few preliminary remarks from Mr. Bridgen, Mr. Slater commenced the debate by stating that women would never be happy until they ruled the world, which he believed they would never do. He also referred to the many liberties men had which women had not, and the many positions which were open to them and closed to the women.

Miss M. Ball followed and was much applauded in coming forward. It was soon seen she had a firm grasp on the subject under discussion. She made several strong points in favor of her side of the question, and closed by challenging her opponents to name a man who was happier than the late Miss Frances Willard, whose happiness was in making others happy.

Mr. Wedderburn was the next speaker. He claimed that men had infinitely the happiest lot. He brought in the argument of a mother's care of her family, which needed constant watching, almost night and day; while a man was at liberty almost any time to put on his hat and go where he pleased.

Miss M. Campbell next took the floor in defence of her sex. She was well received and proved herself to be a fluent and logical debator. Her chief line of argument was in criticizing the previous speakers on the opposite side, which she did with striking effect.

Mr. Fraser, the only male on the women's side in the debate, claimed that most great men owed their fame to their mothers, and named the Queen as a model of happiness.

Miss M. Slater, who was present, participated in the debate and took the men's side. She gave the men credit for almost all good literature, inventions, etc., and claimed that women were nowhere in the race with men for happiness, honor or anything else.

Next came Miss J. Munro, who was well received and spoke in a clear and convincing manner. The argument she brought in was that women were not exposed to the many temptations men were, and said that contentment was great gain, which virtue she argued was in women's possession.

Mr. W. J. Torrell came to the defence

of the men, bringing in many illustrations to prove his assertions. He mentioned the late Mr. Gladstone as a happy man. He brought in several points.

Miss M. O'Neil followed in a few chosen remarks. She claimed that the comparative number of suicides of men and women might be taken as a test. She acquitted herself very creditably.

Then came Mr. W. O'Rourke, who may be termed our Demosthenes, and made a short but effective speech in favor of the men.

Several others followed but this report is getting too long to give even a brief summary of the points advanced on the respective sides. The judges, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Mason, Messrs. Bridgen and C. Elliott, in summing up the debate, complimented the speakers on their addresses, but remarked that several on the men's side, especially, went astray from the real question at issue, and that some of their arguments had no weight, and made their decision in declaring the debate a draw. The party were about to depart but were bidden to wait for refreshments, which were kindly served by the host and hostess. The evening on the whole was very enjoyable.

In the last issue of THE MUTE, there was a slight reference made to the bicycle picnic held in High Park on the 24th of May. Since then particular have come to hand which seem too good to go unchronicled. It was arranged to have the picnic held at Long Branch—a resort some five miles out from High Park—but owing to the wet weather in the morning the place was changed to the Park. The north entrance was made the rendezvous and about ten o'clock a goodly number had assembled, and when no more were in sight the party to the number of about twenty-four decided to proceed to the picnic grounds on their wheels, making quite a long procession. The party was made up almost entirely of our gay young friends. On arriving there some light sports were indulged in until time for dinner had arrived, when the young ladies set to work with a will to spread the tables, but where was the grub to come from. Now, if any, had provided themselves with the necessities of life, but the young gentlemen on being informed of this difficulty made a veritable raid on the refreshment booths on the ground near by, and in a few minutes afterward they were seen carrying off almost everything they could lay their hands on—bananas, oranges, lemons, milk, soda water, ice cream, etc. It is quite unnecessary for us to describe how the tables were devoured, as it can be better imagined than described. Dinner over, all mounted their wheels for a spin around the park. Two of the party—a young gentleman and his little queen—(we will refrain from naming them) got separated from the main party, but in a short time they turned up again to find the rest waiting on them—guard 'koo—on both sides of the road, and were given as right a royal salute as if they had been a prince and princess. Shortly after this Mr. C. Elliott went to make arrangements in a quiet little spot to take a photo of the party, but when all was ready and he went to call them to come up he found almost the entire party in boats complacently sailing on the lake. After some persuading he succeeded in getting all together and took two excellent negatives. A game of base ball was played, in which the ladies took part on both sides, captained by Mr. T. Bradshaw and Mr. C. Elliott. We are sorry we have not the names of those who composed the opposing teams. Mr. T. Bradshaw's side won by 7 to 4, which they say was caused by a misad ball. Other games were played and much enjoyed. At this juncture one of our mischievous young lads brought a large bunch of firecrackers and generously distributed them all around, and in a few minutes they were exploding over everybody's head. The owners of bicycles made a rush for their wheels to get them out of the way to prevent them getting scorched; while doing so they seemed as if fleeing from a hornet's nest, so confused and excited were the whole party. This was the cause of one of the ladies' paroxysms getting burnt, referred to in last issue. Before separating for the evening the party took a stroll around and viewed the Howard monument, to the great delight of some who had not seen it before. The picnic was heartily voted the pleasantest ever held in High Park.

[The above was received too late for last issue.]