



# THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

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

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### 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.

### ADVERTISING

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

ROY V. SOMMERVILLE, 105 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE,  
ONTARIO.



MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1891.

### NEW VOLUME.

This is the first issue of the third volume of THE CANADIAN MUTE. From letters received we know the paper has been a welcome visitor to all our friends and is doing a good work in calling attention to the Education of the Deaf in our Province and Dominion. We are not making money out of it and we did not expect to do so when we started it, consequently, there is no disappointment in that way. We have a large and increasing circulation and our efforts in the future, as in the past, will be to make THE CANADIAN MUTE valuable to the children attending school to their parents, to those who have been here and are now living in various parts of the continent, and to those of the general public who feel an interest in the deaf. We thank our exchanges and many of our subscribers for kind words; we appreciate them thoroughly, but it will have been noticed that we have not published very many of the flattering things which have been said of us lately. We feel too modest.

We regret to say we have been for several weeks and are still without the genial presence of our friend Mr. Ashley. He would be here with us but for the strict diet of his physicians, who have prescribed absolute rest as his only chance for restoration to health again. To one of Mr. Ashley's energetic habits this forced inaction is very annoying. We hope for an improvement soon. He is one who can ill be spared.

There are, according to the latest census returns, 2462 uneducated deaf-mutes in Ireland. Some capable, enterprising person should find work to do for these of great importance. Present arrangements for the education of this class do not seem to meet the requirements of the situation.

### HEWING TO THE LINE, IN DEFENCE OF SIGNS.

In his lecture at the National College recently, Prof. McGregor expressed some good ideas in forcible language. We deem the following worth the space they occupy:—

The time is not yet come to sing the requiem over the Sign Language, and according to present indications the time is a great way off.

The deaf understand the Sign Language thoroughly, they know its value and they are not ready yet to kick away the ladder by which they have, in this country, climbed to the proud position that they now occupy.

But with such facts as these, and they are not isolated ones, daily before me, coupled with my own experience, nothing on earth can make me believe that signs are, *per se*, an evil thing, to be tabooed, abhorred, shunned, or rigorously forbidden the deaf.

No amount of groping around in the dark with the fingers or pencil will give them a mastery of the English language or anything else. Signs must be used as the torch to help them over the dark places.

The Sign Language is a language of ideas, not of words. Use it to convey ideas to your pupils and require them to express those ideas in English.

Their power to acquire ideas far outstrips their power to absorb language wherein to express their ideas, and it is a sin to starve them in that direction. Therefore I would use signs freely in explaining abstract questions, or long lessons.

Give them all the ideas you can in their short school life. In after years, when they have left school, their language will catch up with their ideas.

You must not, however, infer from what I have said that I advocate an exclusive diet of signs any more than I would an exclusive diet of bread.

I do not wish to unduly magnify the importance of signs, but I insist that they cannot be consistently ignored, even in the cases of semi-mutes, semi-deaf or orally taught, without doing injustice or injury and depriving them of their rights or what is justly due them.

Above all things never be guilty of that travesty upon common sense, the spelling of serious, lectures or explanations to a miscellaneous congregation of children of all ages and stages of mental development.

### THE NEBRASKA JOURNAL.

The editors of the *Nebraska Journal* is one of the wholesouled people it is a pleasure to meet, always even tempered and having more sunshine than shadow in her pathway, and more joy than sadness in her heart. May her shadow never grow less. She likes to read our paper; we like to read hers and ponder over the words of wisdom dropped from her facile pen. One copy of the *Journal* comes to us; she is not even satisfied with two copies of our paper but hankers for three. We clip from the last *Journal* the following good things:—

The legislature has lately visited Mr. McBrine's school, and was captured, of course, by the bright children and the looks of things generally. We hope his wants will all be supplied.

Doing questionable things on the sly, is a poor way to get on in the world. Sly actions, and shady doings are sure to come to light, a good many sharp eyes, a great many quick ears, are always on the alert to know things and to search out ways that are dark. Do your deeds openly and above board. Let your light so shine.

The teacher who keeps up the old-fashioned method of having the class "tee the mark," has our respect. Literally speaking, we don't care to see every one's toe on the exact line but we do like to see the teacher have full control of his class, and have strict discipline. Children generally are so poorly governed at home that a teacher has double duty to do on these lines. Keep good order.

Gossip, lies and thives are hard names. There are such people, girls, many of them in the world, but you don't want to meet them. The worst of the three classes for you to meet, is the gossip. We shall always try not to let you meet one, but if one slips in on you unawares, and begins telling you about people and saying hard things, and asking not to tell, tell her our rule is "do not talk about people, but about things," call the Supervisor and put her out. Girls, never allow any one to gossip in your rooms.

We referred to Superintendent Kendall, of the Texas School for the Deaf, as "Colonel," and have been called to account by the *Lone Star Weekly*, as it seems he is only a "Captain." We stand corrected, but anyone knowing anything of the history of the Institution over which he presides so ably, might have unwittingly fallen into the same error. To be continued for seven years in his position—where changes were made frequently prior to his appointment—certainly would lead to the conclusion that Superintendent Kendall was a Colonel, if anything, in fact, at the time, we surmised we were doing him an injustice, and that he must, at least, be a General. However, while he is at the head of the Texas School he is the right man in the right place.

### THE JURY SYSTEM AMONG SCHOLARS.

A new idea in the education of boys has been introduced in an academy at Middletown, N. Y. When an offense is laid at the doors of any of the boys the case is investigated by a jury of the culprit's own companions. The first charge that was settled in this way ended in a prompt acquittal of the defendant. The boys were lectured upon their failure to deal even handed justice, for the case concerned a charge of which the defendant was evidently guilty. Shortly after this episode a second case was investigated. The trial terminated in an agreement by the jury that the wrong-doer should be severely punished—a conclusion which has most favorably impressed the principal as to the capacity of boys for jury box service.

The experiment so far is so limited to permit us to pass judgment on the merits of the Middletown innovation. The plan, however, appears to have the germ of a principle that might be useful in a disciplinary way. We refer these facts to Inspector Hughes. If he can make soldiers out of boys why can't he also educate the rising youth on the responsibilities of the jury box?—*Toronto World*

The foregoing is not a new experiment. It was introduced into this Institution, by the present Superintendent, 14 years ago, in dealing with refractory pupils. It was found to be an excellent mode of determining the guilt of bad boys, and what their punishment ought to be. It has not been resorted to for a number of years past, as very few of our lads deserve severe punishment; their offences are generally light and only merit mild reproof, which they seem to feel more keenly than anything else. If occasion should arise at any time the Jury System will be brought into play again as it was found efficacious in every case.

The *Companion* approves of the plan adopted by the foreman of our shoe shop, to give boys instruction in the nomenclature of their trade, and adds:—

The black board is a good idea where the foreman has the requisite energy and ability to use it right. But many good workmen are not ready writers, and in the majority of cases we believe that some prompting from a higher source would be necessary to secure the results desired.

The foreman of our shoe shop is Mr. W. Nurse, and he has an ability to express his ideas in ordinary English. We will also state that Mr. Nurse is a superior sign maker, is familiar with the manual alphabet (double and single hand), and is a thorough and capable instructor in the art of St. Crispin.

In the New York State Legislature an effort is being made to appropriate \$300 per capita for each pupil in the Institutions for the Deaf of the State. A number of the members think \$300 per capita too much and a compromise at \$275 will in all probability be made. The New Jersey School for the Deaf receives an annual allowance of \$301 for each pupil, besides an appropriation of \$5000 yearly, for repairs, etc., etc. In Ontario each pupil in this Institution costs \$176.11, and yet some people think this is an enormous expenditure. We ought to have more.

We are sorry to read of the blizzards in Nebraska for we have a few good friends in the Institution for the Deaf at Omaha. We wish they were with us in this favored land of sunshine. As we write the grass is turning green in front of our window, the crocus and hyacinths are blooming, the buds on the trees are bursting forth, the birds are singing merrily and all nature is rejoicing.

The *St. Hoster* asks us as to the provisions of the new English Act in regard to the deaf. We understand that the new law which came into force at the beginning of this year makes the education of the deaf compulsory and the tuition, board, lodging, manual training and travelling expenses of pupils free. Every deaf child of school age and sound mind must be sent to school.

The children of this school desire us to extend to the members of the Legislature their sincere thanks for the rare treat which was furnished them in the shape of oranges and candies upon the day they made their official visit. The supply was most bountiful, being sufficient to go around our numerous family three times. This is but an indication of what the members have always done and are likely to do in considering the appropriations for this school. *Winnipeg Echo*

We wonder if the members of the Ontario Legislature will come and see our Institution before the session closes.

### OUR NEW BUILDINGS.

Brief references have hitherto been made, in the columns of this paper, to the new buildings erected in 1889-90 during the past year. The following more detailed statement of the size, design, etc. of these buildings will be of interest to many of our readers. They are not only commodious and substantial, but imposing in appearance. They are described by the Belleville *Times*.

During the past season the Ontario Government has made many important improvements at this institution. Early in the season a handsome manufactory 16x20 feet was erected at the west of the principal's residence. It is heated with steam and is equipped in every way. The roof over the workshop was found to be unsafe and was accordingly removed, and a substantial truss roof substituted and various other changes effected in this portion of the building, which have added immensely to its strength and convenience. A hundred feet built on the modern plan with stables, etc., in basement was erected, and occupies a permanent site near north west of the old kitchen. This building is constructed of heavy timbers framed together in the most substantial manner and is supported by a massive stone wall. The frame portion of the building is utilized for the storage of hay and grain or other produce and farm implements. On this floor there is a well arranged granary which has a chute through which the grain passes to the stables below. In the basement is a driveway from end to end of the building, on each side of which are stalls for cows and horses, also a root house and harness room. The basement is thoroughly lighted, and has all necessary equipments to make it one of the most complete of its kind to be found anywhere.

A little east of the barn stands a new building 33x67 feet erected for hogs and fowls. The lower portion of this building is built of stone with a frame superstructure. This building is constructed in the most substantial manner and is arranged for hogs on one side and fowls on the other, with a concrete walk between. At one end of the building a space of 12 feet with concrete floor is set apart for the storage and boiling of feet. There are fenced pens on each side of the building with floors of concrete. The wooden portion of this building is sheathed both inside and out with tongued and grooved boards and lined between with brick and mortar. Windows in the roof give ample light to the garret, which has double floor and has a capacity for a large amount of straw which is used for bedding.

The most important building of the whole erected during the last year is the new infirmary, and the main part of which is 33x63 feet, with an extension 25x28 feet. This building is of brick supported on a stone foundation. The basement has concrete floors and has a clear height of eight feet and is divided into apartments for various uses. The first floor has a spacious hall and staircase, on each side of which are apartments. The second floor is similarly divided. At the front of each hall is a handsome vestibule of enameled and stained glass, through which are doors out to the veranda which is built for the accommodation of those on leave from the building. In the angle of the wing are located the bath-rooms, lavatories, closets, &c. These are found on both floors, and are of the most modern and improved description. The bath-rooms are furnished with hot and cold water, and also the scullery sink. On the ground floor of the wing is located the kitchen, pantry, etc., and also a doorway to basement and one to the second floor. The building is lighted throughout with gas. The three ceilings are made of ribbed iron stamped in handsome patterns with moulded borders.

The floors are maple and oiled and the roof covered with slate, and the whole building neatly and substantially finished. In fact nothing has been neglected which is necessary for the comfort and convenience of those who may be obliged to use the building.

Mr. Thomas Hanley of this city had the contract of all the above work, except the heating and iron ceiling of the infirmary, which were given to parties in Toronto, and he has given the best satisfaction to the government.

The aggregate cost of improvements above described was about \$35,000.