



THE CANADIAN MUTE

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

OUR MISSION

First. To fit a number of our pupils to earn their living by some trade or profession after they leave school.

Second. To furnish an interesting teacher 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 or deaf and dumb.

SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty cents for the school year payable in advance. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Sent 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.

Let correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf be 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



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1895.

Vacation.

All the pupils in the Institution, we trust, have safely reached their homes, where we know they will receive a hearty welcome and where we hope they will have a thoroughly good time during vacation.

During the school term the boys and girls here have, with a few exceptions, behaved themselves in a most creditable manner, and even those exceptions have not been of a gross character. In fact during the whole session there has not been an instance of really vicious conduct or incorrigible disobedience. What few cases have arisen that called for executive interference have generally resulted from a too great indulgence of the spirit of mischief, or from simple carelessness. When it is remembered that there are here some 200 boys and girls ranging from seven to twenty years of age, this is a most creditable record indeed.

Taken as a whole the pupils have conducted themselves at all times like little ladies and gentlemen—as indeed most of them are—and every officer and teacher and employe in the Institution has constantly been the recipient of many little courtesies on the part of the boys and girls, which marked the kindly nature that prompted them.

We now express the hope that when they reach their homes the pupils will not forget to practice there the same thoughtful kindness. Some people think that courtesies and kindly consideration and deference should be kept for strangers, and that when in the home these things are not expected and would be out of place. This is a woful mistake. Above all others, children should be courteous and considerate and ever kind

and unselfish towards their parents and brothers and sisters, and we hope the boys and girls here will, when they reach their homes, not fail to thus prove that they possess the true spirit of chivalry.

Vacation is meant to be a time of relaxation, of rest from the continuous and oftentimes severe mental exertions of the school term; but the pupils should remember that rest and relaxation do not imply entire cessation or stagnation. Those who are far enough advanced should devote a portion of each day to reading—not necessarily text books, a newspaper or good story will answer the purpose. In this way they can acquire much language and they should not hesitate to apply to their friends for assistance whenever they come across words they do not understand. The younger pupils should occasionally review the work they have gone over. We do not ask or wish that they weary themselves with study, but simply that they keep in mind what they have learned.

But after all, vacation is chiefly a play time, at any rate for the younger children, and once again we hope they will all have a right royal good time, and that when school re-opens next September we will see every one of them with us again enjoying the best of health and eager for another term of earnest, successful work.

Parents and friends can aid these children much if they will. They should converse with them at every opportunity by means of the manual alphabet or in writing. In this way the deaf mutes could easily be taught the names of every object that they see. This would be of very great assistance to the teacher, who often cannot teach these names because he has no representation of the objects in the class room. If parents would always heartily co-operate with the teachers very much more could be accomplished than is possible without such co-operation.

Particularly for Parents.

We would like to strongly urge upon all parents the importance of sending their children back to the Institution again next session. Every year a number of former pupils are kept at home just when they have got a good start in their studies. Only a few days ago the parents of one of the brightest fourth grade boys in the Institution wrote to the effect that unless it was proposed to make a teacher of their boy he would not be allowed to remain longer, as he would have to stay at home and work. It is almost inconceivable that any parent in Ontario can be so selfish, so cruel, so absolutely unjust to his child, that for the sake of the little assistance he can do to him for the few remaining years of school life, he should for all his future be deprived of the incalculable advantages of an education. Such a parent must either be without all natural affection, or else be almost incredibly devoid of all judgment and foresight. How is it possible to set the present value of what work a boy can do for the next three or four years over against the pleasure and advantage of a good education for probably fifty years of life yet before this boy? And surely such parents can never have taken into consideration the time when they shall have passed away and when the boy will be thrown on his own resources. What would become of him then, and what chance would he have to hold his own and earn a respectable livelihood if he has not sufficient education to converse intelligibly with his fellows? We strongly urge all parents to take account

of all these considerations and not to blast the whole future of their children for the petty gain of the little work they can now do. Or even looked at from this narrow, selfish standpoint there is no material object in keeping a boy at home. Few men would give a twelve or fourteen year old boy more than his board and clothes for all the work he could do. But the pupils at this Institution receive their board and all school supplies free. The parents are asked to provide only clothes, and the boys' labors in the harvest time of the year should suffice to pay for those. We hope, therefore, to see all our boys and girls back again in September.

Hints to Parents of Deaf Children.

CHILDREN AT HOME DURING VACATION.
At this time they should be taught the names of parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, cousins, &c. Thus Uncle ANDREW BROWN, Aunt CHARLOTTE DIXON, &c. The names of places, particularly the residence of friends, neighbouring towns, &c., might be given. When the name is first taught, the person or place named must be shown to the child. Various operations connected with agriculture and with trades carried on in their neighbourhood, might be explained which would be very difficult to teach in an Institution; for many of these must be seen to be fully understood. Induce pupils whilst at home to spend some time daily in revising lessons in their school-books.

THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT SCHOOL.

When pupils finally leave school, much may be accomplished by friends in the way of carrying forward their education. They should converse much with those children, in very simple language, on religious and other subjects, by means of the manual alphabet and by writing. The use of signs, except when trying to explain difficult words, should be avoided and discouraged. For example, instead of signing to the child, *Bring me a chair*, write those words or spell them, and always oblige the child to write or spell what it has to express, and correct for it any errors in the language it employs. By adhering to this course a desire will be excited in the minds of these children to acquire and keep up a correct style in the use of written language—an attainment on their part of the greatest difficulty, and yet of the highest importance. Attention is specially directed to the importance of having these pupils immediately apprenticed to some trade, or occupied in some useful employment on their return home, by which they may be kept from acquiring idle habits, and be put in the way of earning their own livelihood. In the management of deaf children, let parents and friends beware of the extremes of over-indulgence on the one hand, or of undue severity on the other. Such children suffer very much from injudicious kindness, or from violent and rude opposition. In general they should be treated very much like other children, and taught to feel in every respect that they are responsible beings. —*New South Wales Report.*

A new Catholic Institution for the Deaf and Blind will be opened in Oakland, Cal., in the near future. Mother Valera, the mother General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, will have charge of the school. The corps of teachers and assistants is to be obtained from the Catholic Institutions in Germany and France.

A college for monkeys has recently been established at Calcutta. Some advanced naturalists are sanguine that monkeys can be taught sufficient language to at least express simple wants, and they have decided to submit their opinion to a practical test.

MARRIED.
MELBANK THURGOOD. At the residence of the bride's father, Belleville, on Wednesday, June 20th, 1895, Mr. Charles Melbank, of Glasgow, to Miss Martha Thurgood, formerly of the Belleville Institution.

Home, Sweet Home!
No pleasures and relaxations, though a dream,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.
A charm from the skies seems to hallow it,
Which, seek through the world, is not elsewhere.
Home! home! sweet, sweet home,
Be it ever so humble,
There's no place like home.
An exile from home, splendor dazzles in vain,
Oh, give me my lowly thatched cottage again,
The lips along gayly that came at my door,
To cheer me then with that peace of mind
That's in them all.
Home! home! sweet, sweet home,
Be it ever so humble,
There's no place like home.

Fredericton Institution for the Deaf.

We present in this paper a cut of the Institution for the Deaf at Fredericton, New Brunswick, also a small photo of the respected Principal.



MR. A. P. WOODBRIDGE.

Good work is being done in the Institution, as will be learned from extracts given herewith from a recent report of the Principal:—

"Of all the numerous public works that are undertaken and established for the benefit of man, there is none that may be looked upon with greater satisfaction than those charitable and educational Institutions which have for their object the elevation and enlightenment of the unfortunate classes of our population. The Fredericton Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb of the Province, was established in 1862, amidst numerous difficulties and with little prospect of overcoming the opposition from various quarters which beset the execution of the work on all sides; but having a strong faith in the righteousness of our cause and fully believing in the necessity of our Province for such an Institution, we pressed forward to the goal which lay before us, which was to establish the Institution on such a firm and solid basis as would last for all time and be of benefit to the deaf mute children of this and future generations. During the past twelve years the work has steadily progressed, enlarging its sphere and circle of friends year by year, overcoming every obstacle and discouragement and attaining that prosperity in which we see the Institution to day.

"In congratulating you, Gentlemen of the Committee and friends of the Institution on the success which has attended the work, we look forward to the attainment of better results, a greater growth and a more complete realization of our aims. We desire to see this Institution abroad with the times in every respect and so to extend the work that all uneducated deaf mute children throughout the Province may come within its sheltering walls and receive those educational benefits which shall fit them for and enable them to make their way in life.

"While thankful for what has been done, and for the number of those who having left the Institution to face the world and its trials, have become happy and useful citizens, earning their livelihood in an honorable and creditable manner, we would appeal to our Legislature for a compulsory law to ensure the attendance of children and for increased means to carry out those improvements and extensions which are necessary to make the Institution what it should be and enable it to do all the good it aims to accomplish."

Card of Thanks.

Mr. O'Meara and family desire to tender their sincere thanks to R. Matheson, Superintendent, and their many friends at the Institution for the great kindness and attention shown them during their late crushing bereavement—the death of the dear wife and mother, Mrs. O'Meara.