



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, 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 cents for the school year, payable in advance, postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit 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 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

THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE

ONTARIO



MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1900.

Separation of the Sexes.

The question of separating the sexes in the public schools in the United States is engaging the attention of some educators, and some of our contemporaries advocate the same innovation for schools for the deaf. Our own opinion is that such a change would be a great mistake. We believe that the commingling of the sexes exerts a beneficial influence on each. In family life it is the universal experience that where there are both boys and girls in a family many excellent traits of character are developed in both sexes which otherwise would have remained dormant; and the same is true of the schools. One of the marks of heathenism and of ignorance among races and nations is the keeping apart of the sexes; while on the contrary it is one of the glories of our christian civilization that women are placed on a plane of equality with men and that the sexes associate together freely, to the mutual advantage of both. There may be in the schools some bad boys who are not desirable companions for girls, but neither are they for other boys; while there will also be found a proportionate number of girls who are equally undesirable; but whatever small advantages there may be in the separation of the sexes on this ground we are quite certain that the compensating advantages of co-education are incomparably greater. It is better for boys and girls both that the sexual distinctions should be rendered as inconspicuous as possible, but we do not know of any better way of emphasizing them than by the innovation suggested above. This is an era of progress and advancement, and we would be sorry to see any retrograde steps taken.

The heart of Mr. Martin, the new Premier of British Columbia, seems to be in the right place, and he evidently

has a warm corner in it for the deaf and dumb of British Columbia. In a speech at Vancouver, a short time ago, among other things that would engage his attention, in the near future, he said, was the establishment of an Institution for the deaf and dumb children of the Pacific Coast Province. There are quite a number of deaf and dumb children in the west who have not had the advantages of a training in school. The former Government liberally arranged for the care and tuition of three children from British Columbia at the Institution in Winnipeg where they now are. If a school for the deaf were located in Vancouver, or some other central place, it would be a blessing to a number of afflicted ones. We hope Mr. Martin will be spared to see the opening of an Institution in British Columbia.

The report of the Minister of Education for Ontario, just received, is a volume of great interest for all engaged in educational work. The total school population of Ontario - that is, all persons between 5 and 21 years of age inclusive, was 691,300. The number of pupils between those ages registered was 476,584. The average attendance was 273,451, or 57 per cent of the total number registered. The percentage of average attendance has shown a steady increase of from 41 per cent in 1867 to 57 per cent last year. Of the 2475 teachers employed 2650 were males and 6,809 females, a decrease of 34 and an increase of 123 respectively. The average salary for males was \$396 and for females \$293. The total expenditure for all public school purposes was \$4,392,714, or \$9.19 per pupil. There are 406 public libraries in the Province, of which 120 are free libraries.

We learned with deep regret of the death in Toronto on Friday last of Mrs. Theo. C. Taylor, formerly Mrs. Spaight, who was matron of the Institution of the Blind for some years and matron and housekeeper of this Institution for seven years. She was a lady of cultivated tastes and superior attainments and enjoyed the warm admiration and sincere esteem of all connected with the Institution. She will be remembered most kindly by the old pupils of the Institution, of whom she was and ever has been a true friend, and for whose comfort and welfare she was most solicitous. Her daughter, Miss Gussie Spaight, is a teacher in the Winnipeg Institution for the deaf. We extend our deepest sympathy, in which we are sure all the deaf will join us, to the relatives of the deceased, and especially to her sadly bereaved daughter.

The Toronto Globe of Saturday, the 24th ult., contained an excellent cut of Superintendent Mathison, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch and an appreciative estimate of his work as superintendent of this Institution, to which he has devoted the best years of his life, and than whom the Globe says, "no man has ever more generously and unsparringly placed marked talents at the disposal of a great cause." The article concludes with liberal extracts from our last annual report in which were summed up the progress made in the twenty years, during which Mr. Mathison has been at the head of the Institution, and in which his ideals and aspirations for the future are clearly indicated.

The per capita cost of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Mt. Airy, based on the average attendance of 500 pupils, up to the 30th of September last was \$245.70 for each pupil.

Over a Week the long heralded new paper for the deaf has made its appearance and we have to thank the publishers for a number of sample copies. It is an eight page paper handsomely printed and brimful of news of the deaf from all parts of the world. A unique feature of this issue is a page containing small but very good cuts of all the schools for the deaf in the States. The paper is certainly a credit to Mr. Koenig, the managing editor and we wish it every success.

Our deaf friends in the United States have been called upon to suffer heavy losses during the present school year. First was the burning of the Arkansas Institution, followed later on by the destruction of the Western Pennsylvania school, and this was followed a few weeks ago by the burning of the Gallaudet Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf.

A bill has been introduced in one of the State legislatures to provide for the insertion of the manual alphabet in all text books used in the public schools of the State. We have repeatedly recommended that this be done in Ontario but so far without avail. We have strong hopes, however, that it will be done in the not distant future.

We have received a copy of the Calcutta Daily News, containing a report of the annual general meeting of the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School. The attendance for the past year was 27 and the school is in a fairly prosperous condition, but it does seem strange that so little is being done for the thousands of deaf children in India.

Here is a pupil's item from the Texas Ranger: "To the Canada Deaf School. Do you all think that the British will succeed in beating the Boers soon? Hurrah, for the Boers will defeat them soon! Think that the British will beat the Boers? Of course we do, and that before our Yankee friends get through with the wretched natives of the Philippines. If you do not believe it, ask Mr. Begg. The above item is only one of the kind we have seen in other school papers lately and we have read reports of teacher's lectures to pupils on this subject exhibiting such narrow views and ignorance of history that surprised us. We might say much more on this matter, but will just add, we think our friends across the line are not kind. At the time of the Spanish American war our hopes were all under the Star Spangled Banner. There was not a single Spanish sympathizer in our Institution, because we knew that the American flag like the Union Jack carries liberty and justice wherever it floats.

Rose Leaves Instead of Rice.

The opening of the door to permit the departure of a bride and groom has heretofore been the signal for a general pelting with rice - a Chinese custom conveying wishes for good health and prosperity. But this custom has been so abused with vulgarity, often producing injurious results, that it is being discarded at the weddings of careful people, and showering the bride with rose-leaves or loose flowers has been instituted. These flowers are then again picked up and kept as souvenirs by the guests. Mrs. Burton Kingsland in the March Ladies' Home Journal.

The Toronto Daily Star, aims to furnish the public, not with a cheap or inferior paper, but with a newspaper that will equal the best papers in Canada. The Star has many special features that interest the reader. The Cable Service is not equalled by any other afternoon paper in Ontario, while special war news from South Africa is frequently published fifteen hours ahead of any other paper. No other afternoon paper in Ontario has ever attempted such a thorough and up-to-date Special Cable and Telegraph Service. It can be had by Belleville subscribers at \$2.00 a year.

FOR THE CANADIAN MUTE

Rule Infrequently

Where Mrs. Koenig found
Holl down their children
Among her heavy mourning
Are gathered I should say

The bravest and the boldest
The lowly and the proud
Of charity the noblest
The children of the good

From every clime and clime
From palace cottage and
Where'er throughout the land
Beats Anglo-Saxon blood

They're tolling up the hillsides
They're mourning on the plains
They're panting 'neath the sun
They're chilled with tropics

To wipe away the vestige
Of bondage from the land
For progress and for peace
They there have taken stand

Beware, ye kindred nations
Brazil's cause is yours
You, besetted civilizations
But let us while here stand

Where'er her crimson banner
Is hung abroad, is power
Protection for the stranger
Unto the stars release

No hatred of Europe
Shall haunt her onward way
She's hostage to Jehovah
For people's health her way
Belleville, March, 1899

Trades for the Deaf.

Some people seem to think that we are educating children for the pleasure, but we are not. Instead, we are trying to give to a defective class the ability to make a living in competition with normal people, and we sometimes realize that we have a hard task. It is not a task that confronts the educators of the day, but it is a hard, stubborn task and though we may dislike to face the facts that destroy some pet illusion, the demands of the present are such that we must. Most of our children will depend upon manual dexterity or upon manual labor, to earn for themselves a living. They will not make a living at all unless we can give the pupils the ability to make a living, in some trade, they will make money, and make it easier for them to find common labor. Our energies, therefore, should be bent to practical things. Our object should be to increase the earning power of the individual, so that he may not exhaust his energies in the struggle for existence. It is right that every child should have the opportunity to learn as much as he can. But the demands of modern society are such that the ability to make a living is second only to honesty and uprightness. The ideals of college professors can not honor ideals. They live with another class of people. They practically begin their work when they are ready to leave off. We begin with many children whose minds are much better developed than the three year old child that prattles at its mother's knee. But regardless of the material with which we have to work, we must look for results to justify the labor and the expense. This result must be found in the ability to go through the world as independent and self-supporting citizens. Give willingness and bodily strength, anybody can make a living at manual labor, and an education does not mean pacitate one from the meanest work. Our modern life requires that some one dig ditches. But ditch digging is a thing to be avoided, if one can with less exertion, or in less time, earn the same amount of money at something else, and if we can help another beyond the necessity for engaging in the most laborious and least productive of pursuits, we should do so. The professions are beyond most of the deaf, if not on account of the insurmountable barrier of their deafness. Our hope, then, must be in the trades, and our efforts must be directed along that line. To be effective, the trades must be taught as trades, and not merely for training in manual dexterity. Manual training is an excellent thing as a sort of preliminary, but eventually the work must become such as our pupils may be expected to find after life. Habits of industry and complete initiation into the mysteries of the mechanical processes and the underlying principles of a trade are essential. We must make workmen, or our mission has failed. -The Silent Hoosier.

Thos. A. Middleton, of Horning-Mills, and his relatives have the sympathy of their friends in the loss of John Middleton, a brother of Thomas. John was fatally injured at an explosion of a gold drop mine near Phoenix, British Columbia, the last of February.