



THE CANADIAN MUTE

FOUR IN ONE EIGHT 1899

PUBLISHED SIX 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 of same be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

Second - To furnish an interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf friends elsewhere.

Third - To be a medium of communication between the school and parents, and friends of pupils, both at the Institution, the hundreds who are 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. Sent 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 a subscription expires, unless notified in advance. 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, so being calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted if we know it.

ADVERTISING

Very wanted 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



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1899

The Combined System.

While some well intentioned friends of the deaf in the United States are endeavoring to saddle them with the menibus of a purely oral system, the deaf in Great Britain and other European countries are endeavoring to free themselves from these trammels. The exclusively oral system has for many decades been the only system in vogue in those countries and it has had the very best possible opportunity of demonstrating its utility; and with what results? Many of the leading educators of the deaf in Europe declare that it has failed to accomplish satisfactory results, and a strong reaction has set in against it. Two or three years ago the deaf of Germany presented to the Emperor a largely signed petition praying that the combined system be adopted, which will probably be done in the not distant future. Similar action is about to be taken in Britain. At the congress of the deaf held in Liverpool last summer it was resolved to prepare a petition to the Queen in favor of the universal adoption of the combined system, which they declare makes for the greatest happiness of the greatest number. We claim that the deaf themselves are best able to gauge the relative merits and utility of the two systems, and we venture to say that if a plebiscite of the deaf in America were taken, nine out of every ten at least would vote in favor of the combined system, and it seems that the deaf in Europe hold similar views, as evidenced by the incidents above noted and by many others of a similar character, of which the following is one of the most striking. At a meeting last year of the deaf at Bradford, England, a resolution was adopted which stated that they record with regret the very low standard of education of deaf children as taught by the Bradford School Board and acquired during the past

twelve years' trial of the oral method of instruction, their almost total inability to make themselves understood by and to understand the general public, also their inferior intelligence and knowledge as compared with deaf children taught on the combined system. This is a tremendous indictment, and yet this system, which has proved such a deplorable failure in Britain and Germany, is the one which some educators of the deaf in America are exerting themselves to the utmost to have adopted here.

The South African War.

There is one important respect in which this present war in South Africa differs from all others, and illustrates the fact that new conditions have arisen, the deep significance and far reaching effects of which cannot be too strongly emphasized. In past conflicts it has always been Great Britain and Ireland against the enemy, sometimes against almost the whole world in arms. But a great and potent change has in late years been wrought, and now it is the whole British Empire against whoever may throw down the gage of battle. No longer must our enemies take into account only the redoubtable and invulnerable little islands which constitute the nucleus of the world's greatest Empire—Canada and Australia, both of continental dimensions, both possessing almost unlimited resources and both inhabited by a rapidly increasing population of loyal and valorous citizens; India, the home of two hundred millions of grateful and contented subjects, capable, if need be, of providing millions of splendid soldiers, these and countless other colonies and dependencies must be reckoned with, and we doubt not, were the necessity urgent, were Britain's supremacy seriously threatened by any combination of powers, our cousins in the United States, one with us in blood and speech and tradition and identity of interest, would stand shoulder to shoulder with the mother-land, for

The thunders are that never yield,
The hearts of oak that dare
Could face the fire on any field
If Yankees too were there

Could dare a frenzied world in arms
Mid hot and bursting shells
And answer Europe's wild attacks
With loud, triumphant yells

Be that as it may as regards the United States, the spectacle of this spontaneous outburst of devotion and loyalty this demonstration of the unity of the Empire, this placing at the disposal of the British government of all the resources of the colonies, will be a most impressive object lesson to the world, since it at least doubles Britain's effective military strength and fully insures her invincibility and supremacy. Britain needed no assistance in bringing this war to a successful issue, yet simply as a manifestation of loyalty, and to demonstrate the fact that each of the colonies—colonies now no more but integral parts of the Empire—is henceforth willing and able to share with the mother land the burdens and responsibility of upholding the rights of Britain and of Britain in every part of the world, offers of assistance were promptly sent from all parts of the Empire. The home government has accepted a small quota of troops from each of the more important colonies for the purpose of exhibiting to the world the extent and quality of the resources upon which she can draw; and when the nations of Europe, who hate Britain because of her greatness and power, of her past successes and her present predominance, witness the sublime spectacle of well trained troops pouring into South Africa from Canada and Australia and the islands of the sea, and fully realize the fact that these could, if needed, be increased a hundred fold, the effect can-

not but be most impressive and salutary; and this practical demonstration of world wide empire and of almost unlimited resources in men and money and material wealth under command, must inevitably alter all former ideas as to balances of power, and establish beyond any question the permanent supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon race with their exalted ideals of truth, justice and righteousness.

True to the world's debt they'll receive
Swiftly but surely paid for their
And round her Empire's walls will be
Like a storm's blast

Here are a few interesting facts and figures. There are in the world 3061 languages and dialects and more than 1000 religions. The average duration of life is only about 47 years, but it is slowly but steadily increasing, owing doubtless to the advance in medical science and the greater attention paid to sanitary and hygienic matters. One fourth of the people born into the world die before the age of six, one half before the age of sixteen, only one person in one hundred lives to the age of sixty five, only one in six hundred to be eighty and only one out of every thousand lives to be one hundred. The deaths are estimated at 67 a minute, 96,480 a day, 35,215,200 a year, and the births at 70 a minute, 100,800 a day, 36,792,000 a year. The world's population, therefore, gains about 1,576,800 every year. Married people are longer-lived than single people, tall men live longer than short ones and women live longer than men. About 750 people out of every 1000 who reach adult age get married. The number of people capable of bearing arms is estimated at one fourth of the population.

The National Council of Women of Canada are appealing to the women of Canada to aid in adequately presenting their life and work at the Paris Exhibition next year. Instead of arranging for a women's section, which often means disappointment and imperfect representation, the Dominion Government has decided to publish a handbook for distribution, which will give statistics and information regarding all departments of women's life and activities. The volume will be divided into sections on Charities and Reform, Education, Trades and Industries, Social Work, Professions and Careers, Art, Literature, Church Work, Indian Women and Immigration. Anyone possessing information which will be of interest in any of these departments are requested to send their names and addresses to Miss T. E. Wilson, Paris Commission, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, who will furnish lists of questions to be answered.

A few days ago the Ontario Government made a redistribution of the various sub-departments of the public service. Quite a number of changes were made but our Institution remains as formerly, in charge of the Hon the Provincial Secretary. As the former Provincial Secretary, Hon. E. J. Davis, received another portfolio, Hon. J. R. Stratton is now our governmental chief. Mr. Davis always manifested a warm interest in our Institution and the deaf generally, which we are sure will be in no degree lessened even though he has ceased to be our official head. In Mr. Stratton we have no doubt the deaf will find quite a devoted a friend and generous provider as were his predecessors.

The proportion of blind people in the world is about one to every 1250 people. It would seem, however, that the number of one-eyed people must be very great, since nearly three million glass eyes are made every year in Germany, Switzerland and France.

Not long since we noticed in one of our columns to the effect that the best city in Ontario recently. We would strongly advise not to indulge in such a future. Rattling is genuine, simple, and should be so contented. We are just the high moral status of Ontario and hope nothing will to mar this noble reputation by stamping the very ground.

THE MACKAY INSTITUTION

From our own Correspondent

We have some boys added to the list and all are happy. Several of our big left us and are working for the trades, but we miss them very much.

Miss Sabelle King is taking rest from articulation teaching. The place has been filled by Miss Ross of Montreal. With this exception there has been no change made in the teachers. Mrs. Ross of New York is in charge of the housekeeping.

We had a great treat in viewing the famous paintings of Tissot's in the Hall. There were more than a hundred pictures all illustrating scenes of Christ and His works. I am sure the pupils will never forget the pleasure these beautiful paintings gave them, and they have found them more lessons far more interesting than any they have had. It was hard for them to make them do so. They all enjoyed their deaf friends in Belleville and have the very best enjoyment.

This morning the boys began to and early to lay out their plans for the season. They are trying to make a little though it is certainly cold enough for winter and snow came the sleighs with their bells are out in full force.

Last August, greatly to the surprise and admiration of all Mr. Frank Wilson, old schoolmate, he took into his wife, the bride being Miss Anne S. a graduate. Mrs. Wigget is a very sprightly and bright disposition and was quite as witty lady. We consider Mr. Wigget very fortunate in getting such a clever little wife. The residing in Ottawa, Mr. Wigget is in the Government Printing Office. There seems to be a magnet of attention in Ottawa for the Mackay Institution many are employed there.

Mr. Charles Wickens, a graduate of our Institution, has had the honor of having his design accepted for the flag of the new patriotic song called 'Flag for Me' which is dedicated to Canadian contingents. Mr. Wickens also designed the cover for the Commission number of the Montreal. At present he is engaged on a project work to be shown at the Paris Exhibition. Though Mr. Wickens is rapidly in his profession he always finds time to prepare some tale to give children Friday evening.

Everything bids fair for a happy season, the only cloud over us being the illness of our kind president who has been confined to his room for several weeks.

The *Utah Eagle*, published by the Institution for the Deaf, says: We are under quarantine with scarlet fever. On October 1st one of our girls, Miss Fisher, came down with the disease, since then nine others have taken it. The disease was brought to us by one of the girls in her clothing. She is living with her aunt and four of her cousins were sick with scarlet fever. This little girl was sleeping with them to the time of her being sent here, in spite of the fact that all parents and guardians were notified not to send their children if they had been exposed to any contagious disease, and if they had been to notify the superintendent and they would receive instructions. This child was sent to us, even when off to get here, being sent the day before the children were expected, and no warning sent to give us warning. The authorities call it criminal negligence, which is certainly as mild a term as the seriousness of the act will justify. As sick children are doing as well as could be expected. The work of the school being seriously interfered with and must suffer for the carelessness of one