



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 typewriting, 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. Remitt 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 other wise 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

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE

ONTARIO



THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1900.

Dull Pupils.

In the last report of the Clarko School for the Deaf the question of what to do with the pupils who cannot learn speech and whose mental processes are slow, is considered, and the surprising suggestion is made to place them in the schools for the feeble-minded and provide teachers for them there. We have always maintained that it would not be long before the pure oralists would be compelled by the inexorable logic of experience to admit that there is a certain percentage of the deaf who cannot be taught articulation or be instructed by the oral method; and the Report of the Clarko School is an admission that this is the case. The suggestion that all such pupils are feeble minded and should be so classed is a very unsatisfactory way of explaining or excusing an illogical position, and a very unjust method for meeting the difficulty. Nearly all pupils are slow in some one or more of their mental processes, and very few are equally clever in every department. Some are excellent in language but poor in arithmetic, and vice versa, yet no one would think of suggesting that such pupils be classed with the feeble minded. And equally wrong would it be to so class pupils who find it impossible to learn to speak—which is not a mental but a merely physical disability—yet who quite probably could make satisfactory progress if taught by some other method. Nor does even mental slowness justify classing a child as feeble-minded. Some of the ablest men in every walk in life—statesmen, authors, preachers, lawyers, scientists and even teachers—were regarded as almost hopelessly stupid while at school. The fact is that the pure oralists have been trying to maintain an impossible position, and the better way for them to do is to honestly admit that a certain proportion of the

deaf can not acquire facility in speech, and to adopt the rational method of instructing each pupil in the way best suited to his capacity. There may be an honest difference of opinion as to what proportion of the deaf can learn to articulate intelligibly, but the fact it self admits of no doubt. Our own experience goes to prove that some of the very cleverest pupils we ever had were never able to articulate satisfactorily, while some who speak with the greatest facility have inferior mental abilities. We could scarcely imagine a more unfair or unsatisfactory test of a child's mental capacity than that of its ability to learn to articulate.

The Convention in June

We are pleased to inform our readers that, through the kindness of the Hon. J. R. Stratton, the Provincial Secretary, the next Convention of the Ontario Deaf Mute Association will be held at Belleville. This no doubt will be most welcome news, since a large majority of the members of the Association are graduates of the Institution and will appreciate the privilege of spending a few days again at their Alma Mater and the familiar scenes and associations of their school days. The Convention will begin a day or two after the school closes. The exact date will be announced later on, and we trust it will be the most largely attended, the most successful and the most enjoyable Convention ever yet held. The programme is now in course of preparation, though the most desirable characteristic of a programme for such a gathering as this is brevity, since the opportunity of renewing old acquaintances and conversing with old friends is and should be the most enjoyable feature.

There is a friend of ours who purposes starting a rival publication and is one of the most courteous men that we know of. He ought to succeed and we are going to do all we can to help him. He asked us to favor him with our mailing lists, so that he might induce our subscribers to subscribe for his paper. As the request is such a simple one we think we shall accede to it—we shall take it into our serious consideration.

Superintendent Dobbins, of the Mississippi Institution, has been reappointed for four years, by the Governor of the State. Friend Dobbins is to be congratulated but the State is deserving of even more congratulations on having such an able and conscientious man in its Institution for the Deaf.

The Convention.

I hope I am not behind the times in replying to Mr. Nurse's call for "tenders" for the convention, and it seems it has been already decided to hold it at Belleville, but it seems hardly fair to me, for the Easterners to monopolize all the good things. We Westerners have no show whatever, but then we are in a hopeless minority. Now I can't think of a lovelier place to spend it than Belle Isle Park, and it is only 10 cents for the round trip from here to Belle Isle. Windsor has lots of accommodations. Then there is London. I never heard of the convention being held anywhere else but Brantford, Toronto, Hamilton and Belleville, and I do think it is about time a change was made. Who can think of any place more beautiful than the city of Detroit, why the Detroit mutes and Canadians would fraternize, and what big times we could have. I dare say some one will say, probably our Ottawa friend, he being the biggest Easterner of the lot, "who is talking monopoly now?" But I frankly confess that I have never attended a single convention, although I have been associated with the deaf for nearly twelve years, that is, ever since I lost my hearing, and if honors are not more evenly distributed throughout the province it is not likely I ever shall. I can imagine the effect this outbreak will have on our urban friend, Mr. Nurse, but I am quite sure I am only feeling for all Westerners in general.

ARMINA JONES.

Windsor, Feb., 22, 1900.



Mr. Alexander Matheson Died Suddenly in Toronto.

The Belleville Sun of the 20th Feb. says "Mr. Alexander Matheson, who for the period of 25 years was editor and publisher of the Stratford Beacon and who from 1891 until last August was Bursar of the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Belleville, died at his residence, 99 Maitland street, yesterday. Death was sudden and unexpected. The deceased gentleman was well and favorably known to a large circle of acquaintances, and his death will be universally lamented. He was a fearless journalist and an ardent politician in the Liberal ranks. The late Mr. Matheson was born at Dorchester, Sutherlandshire, Scotland, and came to this country about 10 years ago. He first settled in Mitchell, where he remained for several years afterward. Subsequently he removed to Stratford and entered into partnership with Wm. Buckingham in publishing The Beacon. He succeeded the latter in the business, and maintained the paper in its position as one of the most influential in the province, continuing with it until he assumed charge of the Bursar's department of the Belleville Institution. The deceased gentleman is survived by the widow and five children, William G., Margaret E., and Robert B. living in Toronto, and John R. and James A. of Detroit, Mich. The deceased was a prominent and active member of Camp Rob Roy, Sons of Scotland, and in 1891 and 1895 he was chief of the camp. He was a member of Belleville Lodge, No. 121, A. F. & A. M. and of the R. A. M. He was a member and regular attendant at St. Andrew's church. The hundreds who know him in this city held him in the highest esteem and he was universally respected by all classes of citizens. The news of his death will be learned of with sincere regret."

The funeral of the late Alexander Matheson, which took place yesterday afternoon from the residence, 99 Maitland street, was attended by a large number of relatives and friends. Rev. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College conducted the services. The pall bearers were Messrs. George K. Matheson of Mitchell, brother, William G., John R. and James A., sons, A. F. MacLaren M. P., Stratford, and L. A. McLeod brothers in law. The floral tributes included a St. Andrew's Cross from Rob Roy Camp, Sons of Scotland, Belleville, and many others from friends in the city. Among those who paid their last respects were Hon. Thomas Ballantyne and Mr. John Brown, M. P., Stratford, Major Robertson, Messrs. T. H. Preston, M. P., Brantford; J. P. Morgan, James Corcoran, R. S. Davidson, W. Hamilton, Wm. Marshall and R. D. Congor. Interment took place in Mount Pleasant Cemetery—Toronto Globe, 22nd Feb.

The news of Mr. Matheson's sudden demise was heard with much regret by all connected with the Institution, of which he was the Bursar till last August, and we tender to the bereaved family our warmest sympathy in their time of trial and sorrow.

Wedded by Signs.

UNIQUE CEREMONY IN DETROIT COLLEGE. NONE OF THE WEDDING PARTY COULD UTTER A WORD.

A marriage ceremony in which no one uttered a sound was performed in the parlors of Detroit college, last Wednesday. James Goodbrand, of Windsor, was the groom, and Miss Matilda La Serte, an employe in D. M. Ferry's seed house, Detroit, was the bride. Peter Heller was the best man, Miss Clara Hartman the bridesmaid and Mrs. Anna Rhein, Miss Mary Bole, John Heller and Mrs. Preston Perry were attendant friends. The priest was the only one present who could speak, all the others being deaf mutes. The ceremony lasted 20 minutes. If

it were not for the fact that the wedding parties were taking the necessary solemn obligations, it would have been amusing to see the formalities that were gone through, the noddings and facial expressions which they showed their unwillingness to themselves to the each other. The bridegroom and bridesmaid only express their good wishes and satisfaction by standing in front of the happy couple and going through the motions of the hands and fingers with tremendous velocity, at which they would shake their heads, but would make the same gesticulation in their own minds.

The ceremony, it is thought, the first of its kind ever performed in the city. Fr. Henneman, S. J. of the college, performed the ceremony, though he is not a deaf mute. He became an adept in the sign language having learned it from the Rev. Fr. J. Rockwell, S. J. of Boston, who has gone all over the country on missions to deaf mutes, and who was in St. Louis and Cincinnati last summer.

Fr. Henneman says that the deaf mutes of Detroit have been neglected and he is giving instruction to every second Sunday afternoon at the college—Detroit News.

Turrill-McKenzie Homestead

From our own Correspondent

Mr. Kenneth McKenzie spent his New Year's holidays in Mosside, the home of his cousin, Mr. Kenneth Munro. One day he made a dash for Nowhere, take Mr. and Mrs. John Fleming by surprise with a brief visit. The next being New Year's day he called at Mr. M. Showers' place where he found a grand dinner party, and then he returned home.

While in Marthaville, a subscription for the possession of a new and better team, which, after several fruitless efforts, they finally secured. They just sold their other team, one of which went to Mr. Jas. W. Jackson, father of Elroy of your school.

On the 28th of last January Mr. Turrill and myself went to Florence to visit his mother, who, I regret to say, had been seriously ill with rheumatism in her leg. Returning, we dropped at Mrs. Showers' place and found her away for a drive to Mr. Fleming's place.

Mr. John Showers, brother of John and Misses Showers of your school arrived that day just in time to meet Messrs. Pake and Thompson in the Duncan Bloom's shoe shop the previous night, but did not see Dunk there. Dunk was sporting in a skating rink, a healthy exercise for those who are of sedentary habits.

We all were so pleased to hear from Mr. Joe E. Morgan, of Kincardine, late that he was getting along well. He usually attends to his duties at the Wagon House, run by his father. He reported having had a grand drive out of the country with Mr. Robert Robinson. I was guest at hotel in 1882, and met him when he was small, playing with him on lake shore within sight of the hotel.

On the 6th ult. Mr. Turrill went to Wyoming with the team to draw logs, but the snow which fell heavily the other day, disappeared rapidly within two days, leaving the ground bare and muddy. So Mr. Turrill had to abandon his sleigh there. He met Mr. William Wark and accompanied him to his homestead two miles away, where he stayed overnight, being the first auto visitor since Mr. Wark got married. The new couple are very comfortable. They went down to Sarma on Saturday following to labor and a pump, as Mr. Wark proposes putting up a new summer kitchen.

On the 11th ult., after an interval of several weeks, Mr. Willie Summers was here once more. No wonder both the boys had nothing else to do but to sit together and exercise their arms almost without intermission all the day. To our amazement, Mr. Summers was not aware of that happy event, as it happened that he spent last Christmas in Sarma, along with Mr. Wark and his brother Walter.

On the 12th inst. that good and industrious teacher, Mr. D. R. Coleman will complete his 60th year of his age. So we, the mutes, offer him our most sincere congratulations on his thirty years' valuable labors at your school and fervently hope he will be spared for many years to come yet.—W. K.