



# 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 an 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 postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Its paid 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.

Copies, unless 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 to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE

ONTARIO



TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1901.

## The Dawn of a New Century.

It is with more than ordinary heartiness that on this day-dawn of another century we wish all of our readers a happy New Year, and also express the hope that all of them will live to see another—and many other—New Year days; though it is a solemn thought that almost certainly some who read these lines are entering upon the last year of their lives. Be that as it may, most assuredly none of us will live to see the birth of another century; and this occasion, occurring but once in the history of nearly every son of man, is one that merits at least passing notice. That has been a wonderful century which has just passed so quietly away, a century that in many realms of human thought and activity has been signalized by greater progress than have all previous centuries combined—and the more enumeration of even the greatest, the epoch-making inventions and discoveries would require more space than we have at our disposal. If a man had gone asleep in 1699 and had awakened in 1799, he would have felt quite at home in his new environment, for, though very considerable advances had been made, yet he would not have been startled by any radical changes in methods of communication or transportation or in social and political ideals. He would not, in short, have witnessed anything but what might have been predicted as the results of a gradual and natural evolution from those existing conditions. But were a man who fell asleep one hundred years ago to awaken to-day what wonders would meet his gaze, what marvels far surpassing the remotest conception of even the wildest fancy or the most vivid imagination. With what terror and astonishment would he witness our express trains rushing along at sixty miles an hour and breathing out fire and smoke; our electric cars which to

his unsophisticated mind, as to that of the Chinaman's, have "no push, no pull, but goe like blaze alleo same;" our automobiles, propelled by the same mysterious and invisible agencies, our huge leviathans of the deep, our electric lights and innumerable other electrical appliances, our guns which will carry a ton of metal for over twelve miles and the countless other wonderful things to which we have grown so familiar that we seldom think of their true significance. And if he were told that he could send a message to China in a few minutes, or talk familiarly with a friend a thousand miles away, or send despatches a hundred miles through the air, or touch a button and flood a whole city with a blaze of glory, how utterly incredulous he would be! Yet these are to us not only familiar phenomena but many of these appliances are now regarded as necessities, the absence of which would nearly paralyze our modern commercial and governmental systems, would greatly diminish our productive powers and destroy much of the enjoyments of life.

Yet these material wonders are the least of the glories of the nineteenth century. It is in our mental development, our intellectual advancement, our moral expansion that we most pride ourselves—in fact it is this emancipation of mind and heart that of necessity preceded and rendered possible the material progress that has been made. It is true that those agencies which were intended and which should subservise only the elevation of our race have been to some extent utilized for evil; yet even thus, who can overestimate the value or exaggerate the potency of the modern press, of the cheapening of literature, of our free educational systems, of our great and splendidly equipped universities, of our noble eleemosynary institutions, of the political emancipation, of the freedom of speech, of the sectarian tolerance and of the spiritualization of religion which have characterized and glorified the past century. And while all mankind have shared in these benefits it seems to us that above almost all others the deaf have cause to feel grateful for what the past hundred years have brought them, for, within that period, has been initiated and developed the system of educating the deaf. A little more than a hundred years ago the deaf were considered to be without the pale of educational effort and of religious instruction and regarded almost as social pariahs. Now our schools for the deaf are among our chiefest glories, and our great silent family has been raised to the intellectual and moral status of the general community and have proved themselves quite competent to hold their own in every sphere of human endeavor. Good reason, therefore, have they, especially, to look back with gratitude on the dying century.

And what has the new century in store for us? He certainly would be bold who would venture either to predict or to circumscribe the possibilities of the future. We certainly are optimistic enough to believe that we are as yet only on the mere threshold of modern development, and that the advances that will be made in the next hundred years will surpass manifold those that have been wrought in the century to which we now bid a reluctant farewell.

It is only by labor that thought can be made healthy, and only by thought that labor can be made happy. —John Ruskin

A tree will lie as it falls, but it will fall as it leans. And the great question every one should bring home to himself is this: "What is the inclination of my soul?" Does it with all its affections, lean towards God or away from Him? —J. J. Gurney.

## Mr. Stratton's Visit.



The Provincial Secretary of Ontario, Hon. J. R. Stratton, dropped in upon us quite unexpectedly on the 19th ult. He arrived here at about twelve o'clock, accompanied by Dr. Chamberlain, the Inspector, and they devoted the few hours at their disposal to seeing just as much of the Institution as it was possible for two wide awake men to see in so short a time. They proceeded immediately to the dining room, where the pupils were at dinner, and his first view of our boys and girls was while they were in that state of ecstatic bliss such as hungry children feel when in the enjoyment of a good meal. The pupils welcomed their distinguished visitors with a hearty handkerchief salute, after which they viewed the dormitories and other appointments of the living parts of the building. After lunch at Superintendent Mathison's residence, they visited each of the class rooms, where the work and methods of instruction was as fully explained and exemplified as could be done in so brief a time. The pupils were then dismissed and the sewing-room, all the shops, the boiler-room, laundry, hospital, &c., were visited. Then everyone went to the chapel where half an hour was spent in pleasant intercourse.

Superintendent Mathison cordially welcomed Mr. Stratton on behalf of the staff and of the pupils, and expressed the great pleasure all felt in having him with them. They had long been expecting him but had frequently been disappointed, but at last he had come and had taken them completely by surprise. However they were all the better pleased that it so happened for they preferred that he should see them just as they were every day. He was sure they would all be glad to hear what impression Mr. Stratton had formed of all he had seen.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, who was heartily greeted, made a felicitous address. He said that as they were aware, a little over a year ago there was a change in the Premiership of Ontario, and when Hon. Mr. Ross became First Minister he was invited by Mr. Ross to join the Government and, as Provincial Secretary, take charge of the public institutions of Ontario, of which this was one. It was his desire to visit all of these institutions as soon as he could so as to acquire a personal knowledge of their work and needs, and he has already visited a number of them. It was a great pleasure for him to be present with them that day. It was his first visit there, but he hoped in future to visit them at least once or twice a year so long as he retained his portfolio, which he hoped would be for a long time. It was an agreeable surprise to him to see so much good nature as he had that day witnessed. They all seemed to be happy and contented and looked as if they had been very well cared for indeed, and as if all who had charge of them had taken a most kindly interest in their welfare. In going from room to room he had been particularly pleased to witness the happy, smiling faces of the pupils and to notice how willingly the pupils had seemed to confide in their teachers and to obey their wishes. He wanted all of them to feel comfortable

and happy and he felt that the Superintendent and all the teachers did all they could for the best interests of the pupils when they left the Institution. He would be able to make the world. He could assure them that he could do anything to make them happy he would be glad to do it. If any little things were needed to make the Institution more comfortable he would be glad to do it, for they wished to retain its reputation as one of the best schools for the deaf in the continent. He congratulated them on the disposition that they had manifested towards them and towards the teachers were kind to them. He hoped all of them would make the most of the opportunities afforded them here so that when they leave they will be better prepared to high rank among their fellow-citizens in intelligence and culture, morality and good citizenship. He had been the proud boast of his country that our public institutions were managed as to defy criticism and his desire to present this picture of them strongly in the future. He thought all for the many courtesies that had been extended to him and to the teachers that if he could do anything to improve their position he would be glad to do so.

Dr. Chamberlain followed with his kindly remarks. He said that he had quite often and he was always glad to see them. He was pleased with the good conduct of the pupils and their evident attachment to their teachers and officers and teachers. He had often told him that they were here and appreciated their opportunities. A few days ago he received a letter from an old graduate of the Institution who said he was doing well as a teacher and a good and able member of the Government for the education of the deaf. He was glad to tell them that the government, through Hon. Mr. Stratton, had consented to make a grant of money for the Christmas season and he wishes everyone of them a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Mr. Mathison said that he had no doubt all of them were much pleased with the remarks made by Mr. Stratton and Dr. Chamberlain, and he was especially pleased with what was said of the happiness and contentment of the pupils and the mutual confidence and good-feelings manifested towards each other by teachers and pupils. They were one great happy family. The success of the Institution was due to the hearty co-operation of the staff, of himself and he wished in the name of the minister to bear witness to the zeal, devotion and efficiency of every officer and teacher. There were no sinecures here, all had their work to do and he could say that all did their work faithfully and well, and he was sure it was the desire of everyone that that every pupil should regard his friends. Mr. Stratton had expressed his willingness to do anything to promote their happiness and he thought he would at once put this to the test. Last year he had to forego their annual excursion because the government could not see their way to provide the necessary funds. He would ask Mr. Stratton to reinstate the old custom and allow them to go on their excursion next June. A request so heartily endorsed by all the pupils was acceded to by Mr. Stratton.

Four little tots then came forward and signed "Now Hallelujah" after which four larger girls sang a hymn, and after three bows and a tiger for the visitors, they were dismissed and Mr. Stratton and Dr. Chamberlain left at once for their train.

Have you ever watched the sun freeze one drop at a time until foot long or more? If the sun were clean the ice remained sparkling brightly in the sun. The water was slightly muddy and looked foul and its beauty was just so our characters are found little thought and feeling at the influence. If each thought and right the soul will be purified and will sparkle with happiness. Impure and wrong there will be fornicity and wretchedness. No