

Deaf and Dumb in Ontario.

How They are Educated, Enabled to Earn a Living and to Enjoy Life.

They Are Clever, Well-Behaved and Most Industrious Students - Manual Alphabet by Means of Which They Converse-The Institution at Belleville and How It Meets the Wants of the Deaf and Dumb-An Advertiser Interview With Superintendent Mathison.

An Advertiser reporter recently had a conversation with Mr. Robert Mathison, superintendent of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville,



and gleaned some very interesting facts relative to the work which is being done there. "The present attendance at that institution," said Mr.



Mathison, is about 266, of whom the larger number come from Western Ontario, several of them residing in London and vicinity."



Reporter-How many deaf persons are there in Ontario?

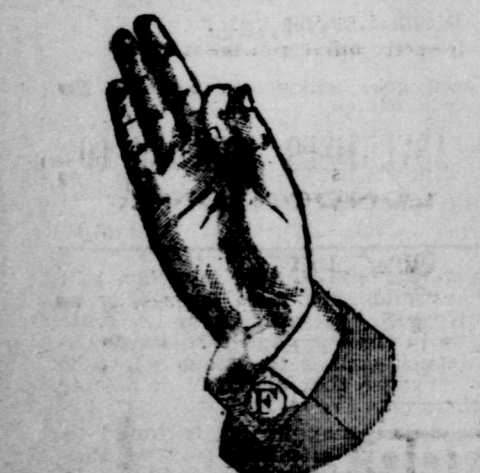
Mr. Mathison-In Ontario, according to the census of 1891, there are about



2,500 deaf mutes, being about 9.97 to every 1,000 inhabitants, as compared with 5.74 in Great Britain and Ireland, 8.78 in Germany, 6.60 in France, and

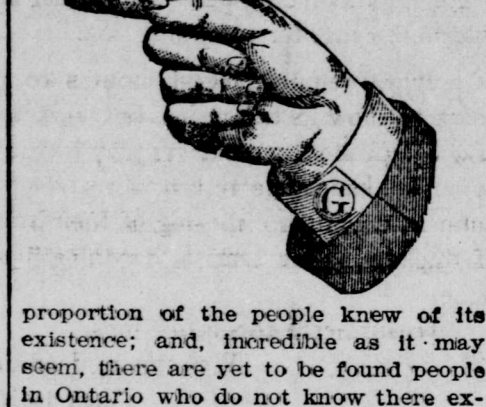


2452 in Switzerland. Of this number, some 1,087 have attended the Belleville Institution since its opening in 1870, so that about one-half of the deaf of

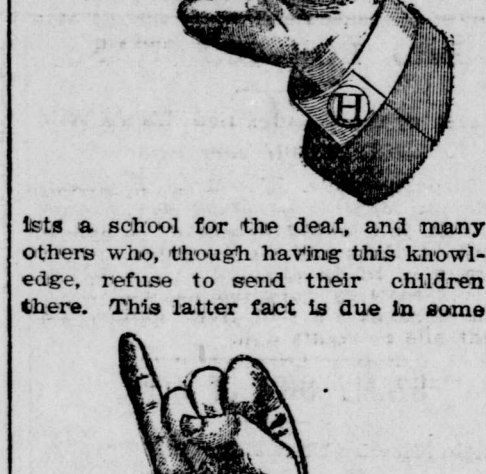


Ontario are uneducated, or, to say, one-third of those over 7 years of age. This is not surprising, in view of the fact that no public school for the deaf existed prior to 1870, so that the other deaf mutes

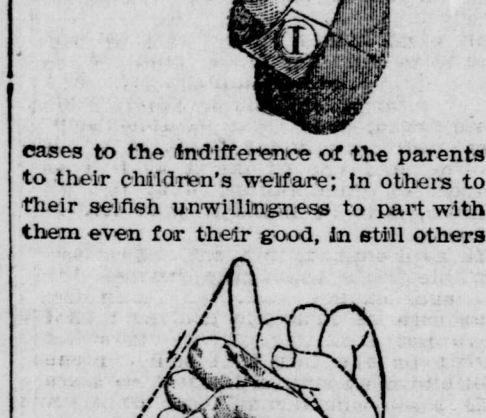
never had an opportunity of acquiring an education. Moreover, even after the present institution was opened, it was many years before a considerable



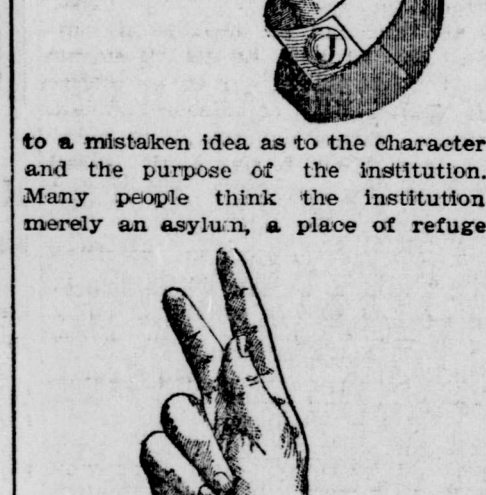
proportion of the people knew of its existence; and, incredible as it may seem, there are yet to be found people in Ontario who do not know there ex-



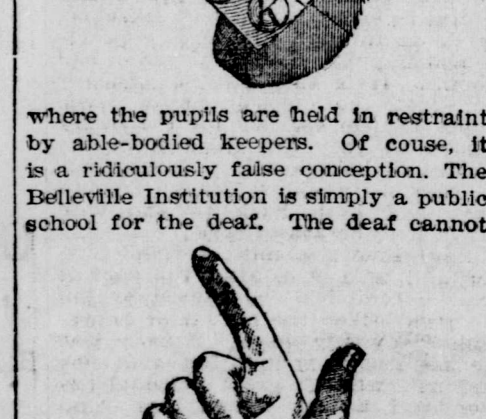
ists a school for the deaf, and many others who, though having this knowledge, refuse to send their children there. This latter fact is due in some



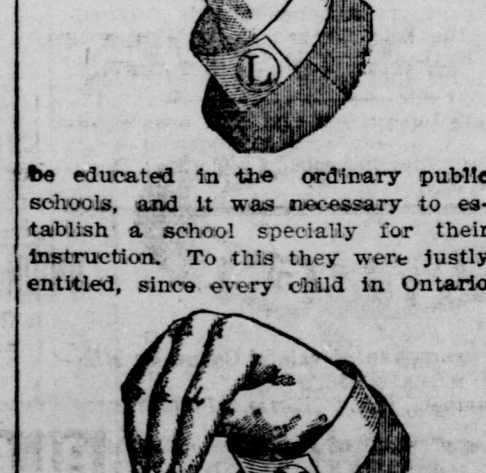
cases to the indifference of the parents to their children's welfare; in others to their selfish unwillingness to part with them even for their good, in still others



to a mistaken idea as to the character and the purpose of the institution. Many people think the institution merely an asylum, a place of refuge

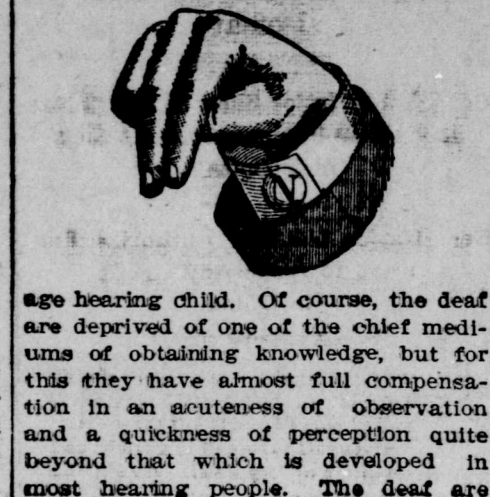


where the pupils are held in restraint by able-bodied keepers. Of course, it is a ridiculous false conception. The Belleville Institution is simply a public school for the deaf. The deaf cannot

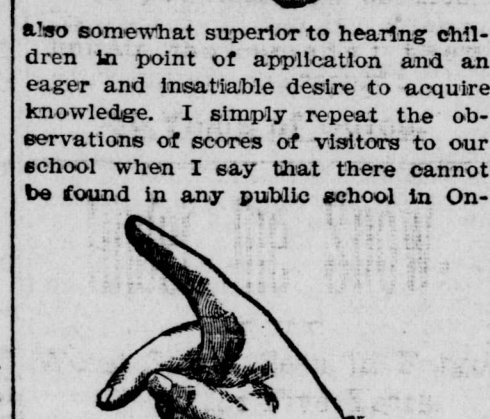


be educated in the ordinary public schools, and it was necessary to establish a school specially for their instruction. To this they were justly entitled, since every child in Ontario

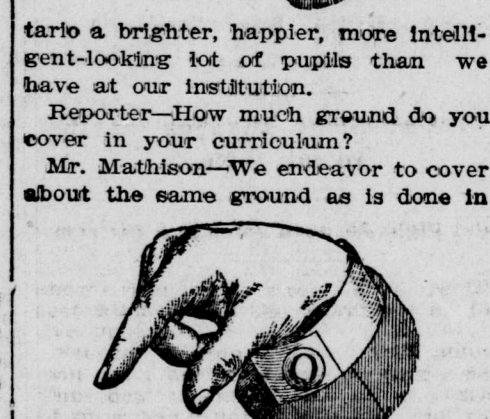
ant part of our excellent public school system. Reporter-To what extent are the deaf capable of being educated? Mr. Mathison-To nearly the same extent as hearing people. The average deaf-mute is fully equal, in natural brightness and aptitude, to the aver-



age hearing child. Of course, the deaf are deprived of one of the chief mediums of obtaining knowledge, but for this they have almost full compensation in an acuteness of observation and a quickness of perception quite beyond that which is developed in most hearing people. The deaf are



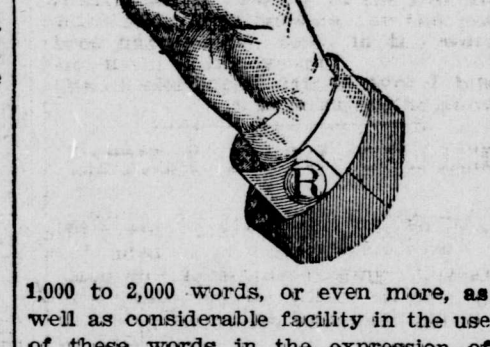
also somewhat superior to hearing children in point of application and an eager and insatiable desire to acquire knowledge. I simply repeat the observations of scores of visitors to our school when I say that there cannot be found in any public school in On-



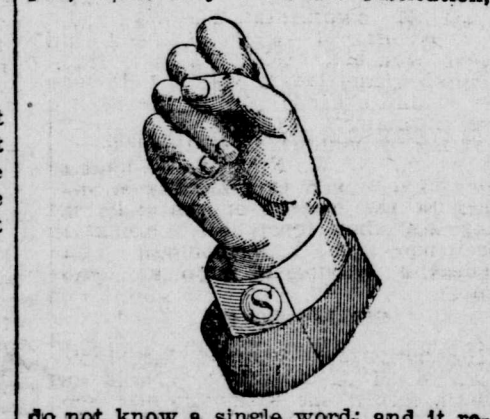
tario a brighter, happier, more intelligent-looking lot of pupils than we have at our institution.

Reporter-How much ground do you cover in your curriculum?

Mr. Mathison-We endeavor to cover about the same ground as is done in



the public schools. We are, however, handicapped to a considerable degree in a comparison of the work done in the institution and the public schools. Our school term is only seven years. When hearing children enter school at say seven years of age they have already acquired a vocabulary of from

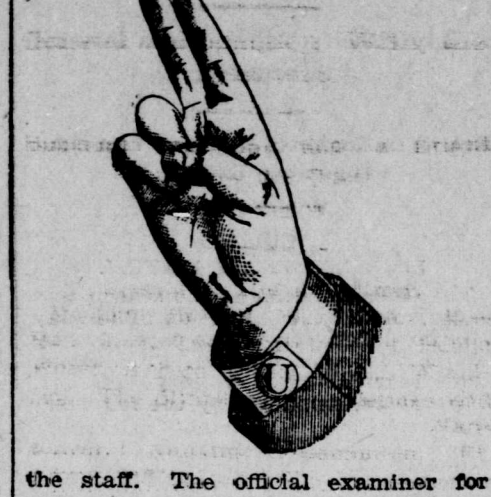


1,000 to 2,000 words, or even more, as well as considerable facility in the use of these words in the expression of ideas. This they do by process of unconscious imitation. Deaf children, of course, are deprived of this means of learning, so that nearly all of our pupils, when they enter the institution,

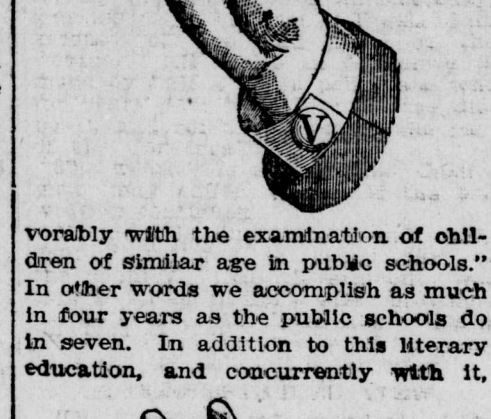


do not know a single word; and it requires two or three years for a deaf child of average brightness to learn as many words as the hearing child possesses when it begins school. It can be easily seen, therefore, how utterly inadequate our seven year term is. The average hearing child, if only

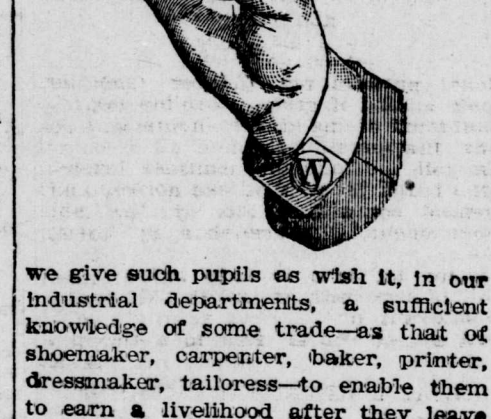
quired a vocabulary equal to that of hearing children when they first enter school? That we have been able to accomplish so much despite this disadvantage speaks volumes for both the brightness and aptitude of the pupils and the ability and devotion of



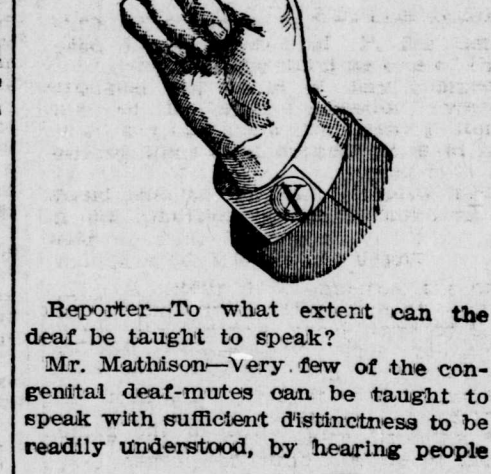
the staff. The official examiner for 1895 spoke as follows in his report: "If we make any allowance for the disability (of deafness, not of the shortness of the term) under which these students labor, the results compare fa-



vorably with the examination of children of similar age in public schools." In other words we accomplish as much in four years as the public schools do in seven. In addition to this literary education, and concurrently with it,

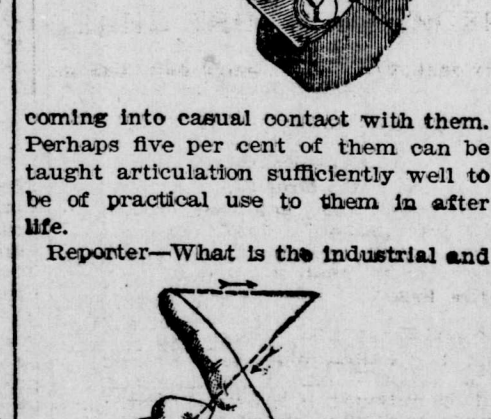


we give such pupils as wish it, in our industrial departments, a sufficient knowledge of some trade-as that of shoemaker, carpenter, baker, printer, dressmaker, tailors-to enable them to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

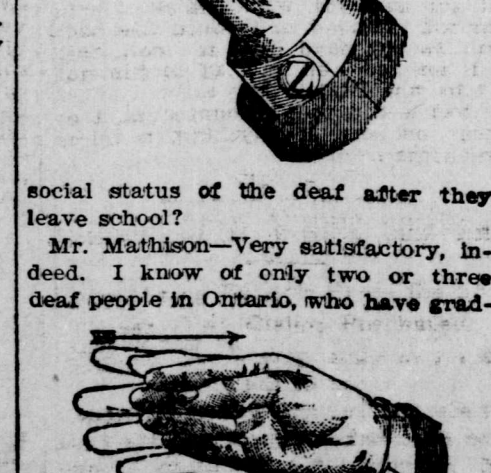


Reporter-To what extent can the deaf be taught to speak?

Mr. Mathison-Very few of the congenital deaf-mutes can be taught to speak with sufficient distinctness to be readily understood, by hearing people



coming into casual contact with them. Perhaps five per cent of them can be taught articulation sufficiently well to be of practical use to them in after life.



Reporter-What is the industrial and social status of the deaf after they leave school?

Mr. Mathison-Very satisfactory, indeed. I know of only two or three deaf people in Ontario, who have graduated from the institution, who are not earning a comfortable and honest

Saturday Night Fair

From 7 to 10 O'Clock.

CHAPMAN'S

ON GROUND FLOOR.

- HOSE-Ladies' All-Wool Cashmere Hose, double soles, heels and toes, worth 35c.
- HOSE-Children's Ribbed Cashmere Hose, Merino Heels and toes, worth 20c.
- HOSE-Children's Plain All-Wool Cashmere Hose double soles heels and toes, all sizes, worth 25c.
- HANDKERCHIEFS-Fancy Swiss Embroidered Handkerchiefs, worth 20c.
- TIES-Colored Silk Windsor Ties, worth 20c.
- GLOVES-Ladies' Colored Cashmere Gloves, worth 12 1/2c.
- GLOVES-Ladies' Fancy Ringwood Gloves, worth 60c.
- GLOVES-Ladies' White and Natural Chambray Gloves, worth 75c.
- SKIRTS-Children's Knitted Skirts, worth 50c.
- SUITS-Ladies' Fine German Combination Suits, worth \$2 25.
- NIGHT GOWNS-Ladies' Fine Striped Flannelette Night Gowns, worth 75c.
- VESTS-Ladies' German Merino Vests, worth 60c.
- SOCKS-Men's Heavy All-Wool Socks, regular price 20c.
- MUFFLERS-Men's Fancy Neck Mufflers, regular price 25c.
- SOCKS-Men's Black, Ribbed, Wool Socks, worth 25c.
- GLOVES-Men's Heavy Fleece-Lined Horse Hide Gloves, worth 75c.
- SHIRTS-Men's Navy Blue Top Shirts, good quality, worth 65c.
- UNDERWEAR-Men's Fine Scotch Wool Underwear, regular price \$1.
- SHIRTS AND DRAWERS-Men's Heavy Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, worth 50c.
- JACKETS-Men's All-Wool Cardigan Jackets, regular price 75c.
- SHIRTS-Men's and Boys' Black Sateen Shirts, fast colors, worth 65c.
- DRESS GOODS-One Table Assorted Dress Goods, worth from 55c to 50c, fine selection of bright, new goods, one cut only of each piece.
- DRESS GOODS-One Table Assorted Dress Goods, colored and black, worth from 50c to 75c yard, one cut only of each piece only.
- SILKS-One Table of Pongee Silks, assorted colors, worth 25c.
- SKIRTS-One Table of Skirts, assorted colors and patterns, worth \$1 25 and \$1 35.
- CURTAINS-10 Pairs Chenille Curtains, our regular special at \$3 25.
- GIMPS AND BRAIDS-One Table of Gimps and Braids, worth 10c, and 12 1/2c, your choice.
- ART MUSLIN-10 Pieces Art Muslin, worth 12 1/2c per yard.
- DAMASK-Bleached Table Damask, 62 inches wide, very fine, worth 65c.
- BLANKETS-Very Large Heavy Wool Blankets, worth \$3 25.
- SHEETING-Bleached Sheet, Twilled, 2 yards wide, worth 25c.
- COMFORTERS-Large Size Comforters, good material, worth \$1 50.
- LAWN-Very Fine Lawn, 45 inches wide, worth 10c.
- QUILTS-Art Quilts, Full Size, worth \$2 50.
- TABLE COVERS-Crimson Embossed Table Covers, 1 1/2 yards square, worth \$1.
- SHEETING-Gray Flannel Sheet, 36 inches wide, worth 25c.
- SKIRTING-Fancy Stripe Skirting, 36 inches wide, worth 15c.
- TOWELS-Linen Huck Towels, large size, worth 20c.
- SHIRTING-Oxford Shirting, fast colors, worth 10c.
- DAMASK-Unbleached Table Damask 36 inches wide, worth 55c.
- OVERCOATS-Men's Good All-Wool Tweed Overcoats, worth \$4 50.
- ULSTERS-Men's Odd Lines Heavy Frieze Ulsters, worth \$10.
- ULSTERS-Men's Fine Tailor-Made Frieze Ulsters, worth \$10 50.
- ULSTERS-Men's Brown, Gray and Black Frieze Ulsters, odd lines, worth \$6 50.
- OVERCOATS-Men's Fine Beaver Overcoats, all colors, tailor-made, chambray interlined, worth \$13 50.
- PEAJACKETS-Men's D. B. Frieze Peajackets, worth \$4 50.
- PANTS-Men's Fine All-Wool Gray Tweed Pants, worth \$2 50.
- SUITS-Men's Fine All-Wool Tweed Suits, best linings, worth \$3 50.
- SUITS-Men's Good All-Wool Tweed Suits, worth \$6.
- OVERCOATS-Young Men's Heavy All-Wool Tweed Overcoats, worth \$4.
- ULSTERS-Boys' Heavy Storm King Frieze Ulsters, worth \$3 75.
- OVERCOATS-Boys' Heavy Tweed Cape Overcoats, worth \$3 50.
- SUITS-Boys' 3-Piece Knicker Fine Tweed Suits, worth \$6.
- SUITS-Boys' 2-Piece good-to-wear heavy Tweed Suits, worth \$2 50.
- PANTS-Boys' Heavy All-Wool Tweed Knicker Pants, worth 60c.
- JACKETS-Grand Assortment of Ladies' Coats, new styles, new materials, all sizes, worth \$6 50.
- JACKETS-Ladies' Beaver Nap and Convert Cloth Coats, assortment of colors, worth \$9 75.
- JACKETS-Ladies' Coats, made of All-Wool Beaver and Heavy Nap Cloth, Box Fronts, buttoned with Fly and two mother of pearl buttons, worth \$12 50.
- COATS-One Table Ladies' Stylish Coats, in black and colors, Large Sleeves, Box Fronts, pleated and ripple skirts, 32 inches long, very fine, worth \$15.
- COATS-One Table Ladies' Nobby Short Coats, very new, good material, worth \$3 75.
- WATERPROOFS-6 Only Ladies' Stylish Waterproofs, removable cape, in fancy tweeds, rubber lined, worth \$5.
- WATERPROOFS-Ladies' Waterproofs, removable capes, good goods, worth \$6 50.
- SKIRTS-Ladies' Tweed and Fancy Mohair Skirts, worth \$5, for \$3 30; worth \$4 50 for \$3 25.
- WRAPPERS-Any Ladies' Wrapper in stock, worth from \$2 50 to \$3 50.

ON FIRST FLOOR.

- SUITS-Boys' 2-Piece good-to-wear heavy Tweed Suits, worth \$2 50.
- PANTS-Boys' Heavy All-Wool Tweed Knicker Pants, worth 60c.
- JACKETS-Grand Assortment of Ladies' Coats, new styles, new materials, all sizes, worth \$6 50.
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- WATERPROOFS-6 Only Ladies' Stylish Waterproofs, removable cape, in fancy tweeds, rubber lined, worth \$5.
- WATERPROOFS-Ladies' Waterproofs, removable capes, good goods, worth \$6 50.
- SKIRTS-Ladies' Tweed and Fancy Mohair Skirts, worth \$5, for \$3 30; worth \$4 50 for \$3 25.
- WRAPPERS-Any Ladies' Wrapper in stock, worth from \$2 50 to \$3 50.

TERMS CASH.

CHAPMAN'S
126-128 Dundas Street.