

HEADQUARTERS FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS



Scene nearly like the above in the Girls' Sitting Room on Christmas morning, about 10 o'clock, when the cords of boxes and presents are distributed to our deaf children.

(Continued from seventh page)

I was surprised to find lots of young fellows like myself at the camp; among them was a couple that knew me when I used to work in the Times office in Peterboro, and they were telling me about the old times when John Groug (now of Perth) John Webster (now of Hamilton) and myself used to play on Peterboro's crack association football team of 1897 (the Invincibles). We had a minister going among the camps holding divine service—Rev. Mr. Dodds (Presbyterian). He seemed to take an interest in me. He knew Miss Annie Fraser, Missionary to the Deaf of Toronto. He originally came from Peterboro and spent six years at Knox College, Toronto. After staying at the camp about a couple of weeks I noticed a foreigner to turn up; at first I took him to be either an Italian or an Indian, but found out that he was a Spaniard who had beat his way from San Francisco, via Vancouver. Of what I have heard about the lazy Spaniards and Cubans, he must have been a good sample. He sometimes talked to me and I was surprised he had such nice hand writing and good English, though frequently broken. He only worked seven hours the first day when he complained of being sick and asked the foreman to excuse him. In the evening when I met him he wrote to me: "I ain't sick, I don't want to work any more." The next day he shipped. I sometimes worked with the teamsters holding the scrapers. I could have been a teamster if I wished. Some of the teamsters went so fast that when we happened to get the scrapers stuck too deep in the mud, or came in contact with roots, they would pull the fellow holding the scraper off his feet. I had fun laughing at the other fellows' expense who were the victims, but of course I was one of them. Once when my foreman, who was quite young, was working in my place for a while, I noticed him hang on to the scraper like a bull dog when it got stuck, but the result was that he very nearly had to turn a somersault. We frequently changed positions temporarily. We were working about a mile from camp so we had our dinner out at the work in the open air. One of the men always brought out the provisions in the morning and at 11:40 a. m. he built a fire and boiled the tea. We frequently made toast, sometimes we would accidentally drop it in the fire. We nearly all walked out to our work in the morning, but in the evening we prepared to ride back to camp. Sometimes we nearly all rode back together and would look somewhat like a body of rough riders. One evening I might have gone down to a watery grave in the river with the horse I was riding. I had a fine black horse and rode into the river behind the stables to give him a wash. I had never went in the same place before, but as I know the river was not very deep and had seen teams cross it, I rode right into it having no fear at all, and was about 10 feet from shore when I turned my horse. After a little while suddenly, to my surprise, I found he

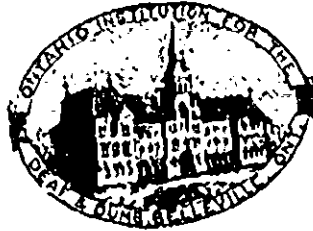
was struggling and soon seemed to be sinking under me. He might have slipped on some stones, stumbled and thrown me headlong into the river. Seeing my danger I jumped off to the side that was nearest to shore. After some moments I was on shore, looking helplessly at my horse. Sometimes I was almost sure he would go down, but he pluckily fought his way, and after a while I had him by the bridle on shore. I was all wet up to my chest, while he was wet every inch from head to hind feet, and the next day (Sunday) I bet he was the cleanest horse in the whole camp. It was 6:30 p. m. when I had the adventure and was getting to be pretty dark. As it was an autumn evening it was pretty cold, but I had no time to think about the cold and must have been lucky for not getting the cramps while in the water. Strangely to say no one saw me in the river, except Mr. W. C. Hunter, who had just happened to go around the stable corner. Some of the other fellows afterwards told me there was a big hole in the place where I went in, 20 feet deep. The fault was that I had ventured too far out from shore. I liked the work all right, though it was pretty hard at first. But the mud! It was awful! After it rained we would be all mud. When it was hot, there would be swarms of small flies, which were quite annoying. We frequently had beautiful autumn weather and liked to be out in the fresh air. We worked 10 hours a day. I got \$1.75 per day and paid \$1.00 per week for board and 75 cents per month for medical fee. We had a doctor going around the camp for our physical welfare, besides a minister for our spiritual welfare. I had been at camp just three weeks when I sent in for my time, and returned to Fort William. At camp No. 1, I took the freight row boat several miles up the river to the landing. Frequently while on the river I could see only the woods, which was quite a wilderness, and it made me feel like an explorer in a strange land. The men at the landing invited me to dinner and after dinner I had a wagon ride to Finmark, but it was the worst and roughest ride I ever had in my life. At Finmark I returned to Fort William by the C. P. R., where I have been the past two weeks working in the Daily Journal office, and doing very well. I think I have told you enough for the present. I may write another letter sometime. As Christmas will be approaching when this appears in print I wish all the readers of the CANADIAN MERE the compliments of that joyous season.

I am, yours very sincerely,
David S. Leboy.

Grand Trunk Railway.

TRAINS LEAVE BELLEVILLE STATION:
WEST—3:15 a. m., 6:00 a. m., 11:15 a. m., 2:20 p. m., 5:20 p. m.
EAST—1:10 a. m., 1:10 p. m., 12:10 p. m., 5:20 p. m., 12:10 p. m., 5:25 p. m., 6:20 p. m.

CHRISTMAS, 1899.



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
BELLEVILLE, DEC. 1, 1899.

To Parents and Friends:—

CHRISTMAS GREETING: The holidays are approaching. I wish the pupils could go home, for then those of us who are on duty, or on call for 24 hours of every day, would get a rest, but as we cannot close the school then all are expected to remain and we shall try and afford the children unalloyed pleasure at the Institution. Only Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be strictly observed as holidays—the classes will go right along as usual, with evening amusements instead of study most of the time.

If parents must have their children at Christmas or New Year's we shall offer no objection to their coming for them to the Institution; but pupils who are thus taken away will not be received again until next September. Pupils taken home during the Christmas holidays a few years ago, brought back measles, scarlet fever, mumps, etc., and scores of children here were infected.

We shall have a grand time on Christmas morning when the boxes, parcels and letters are given out, and the hearts of parents would rebound with joy could they see the little ones grasping the love tokens FROM HOME. Send some inexpensive article and forward it SO AS TO REACH HERE NOT LATER THAN THE 19TH INST. Ship by express—charges prepaid—or through the post-office, put the name of the child, in care of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville, on each box or parcel. Something from home is highly prized. BE PROMPT IN THIS MATTER and do not put it off until the day before Christmas and then expect your child to be happy brooding over somebody's neglect in not sending earlier.

There are a few children who have no parents living, and some whose friends are too poor to send them anything; I feel sure they will not be forgotten by well-to-do parents and friends.

We have a large Institution but every room in it is in use. Our hearts are large and we would like to be hospitable if we could, but under the circumstances we cannot furnish lodgings or meals to friends of pupils at the Institution. Parents will be welcome visitors to the classrooms during school hours. Any of them coming to the city may obtain excellent accommodation at reasonable rates at the hotels in Belleville. The following are recommended:—Hotel Quinte, Kyle House, Queca's, Anglo-American, Dominion, and Doctor's near the G. T. R. Station. Wishing you "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

I am, yours faithfully,

R. Mathison

SUP'T.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Classes:

SCHOOL HOURS: From 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. on Tuesday and Thursday each week.
CHURCH FANCY WORK CLASSES on Monday of each week from 3:20 to 4:40.
EVENING STUDY FROM 7:10 to 8:30 p. m. for pupils and from 7 to 8 for junior pupils.

Articulation Classes:

From 9 a. m. to 12 noon, and from 1 to 3 p. m.

Religious Exercises:

EVERY SUNDAY.—Primary pupils at 10 o'clock, and general assembly at 11 a. m., immediately after which a class will assemble.

EACH SCHOOL DAY the pupils are in charge for the week, with open prayer in the afternoon. The classes may teach their respective subjects after 7 o'clock. In the afternoon 7 o'clock late pupils will again assemble after prayer will be conducted in a quiet and orderly manner.

PROVIDED VISITING CLERGYMEN: Rev. C. Burke, (Unitarian), Missions of the Deaf, Rev. E. J. Thompson, (M. A., Presbyterian), Rev. C. H. McIntyre, (Methodist), Rev. H. Cowart, (Baptist), Rev. M. W. McLean, (Presbyterian), Rev. Father Connelly, (C. W. Watch, Rev. J. J. Rice, Rev. N. D. Cline).

SINGING CLASS, Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p. m. National Series of Sunday School Lessons. Miss ANNIE MATHEWS, Teacher.

Clergymen of all Denominations are cordially invited to visit us at any time.

Industrial Departments:

PRINTING OFFICE, SHOE AND CANNING SHOPS from 7:30 to 8:30 a. m. and from 2:30 p. m. for pupils who attend school. Those who do not attend school, from 7:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m. and from 1:30 to 5:30 p. m. each working day except Saturday, when the office and shops will be closed at noon.

THE SEWING CLASS HOURS are from 7:30 to 12 o'clock, noon, and from 1:30 to 5 p. m. for those who do not attend school, and from 3:30 to 5 p. m. for those who do. Sewing on Saturday afternoons.

The Printing Office, Shops and Canning Room to be left each day when work is done in a clean and tidy condition.

Pupils are not to be excused from various classes or Industrial Departments except on account of sickness, without permission of the Superintendent.

Teachers, Officers and others are not to allow matters foreign to the work in hand to interfere with the performance of their several duties.

Visitors:

Persons who are interested, desirous of visiting the Institution, will be made welcome any school day. No visitors are allowed on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays, except on the regular chapel exercises at 2:30 on Saturday afternoons. The best time for visiting on ordinary school days is as soon after 10 a. m. in the afternoon as possible, as the classes are dismissed at 3:30 o'clock.

Admission of Children:

When pupils are admitted and parents come with them to the Institution, they are kindly advised not to linger and prolong their stay with their children. It only makes discomfort for all concerned, particularly for the parent. The child will be tentatively cared for, and if left in our charge without delay will be quite happy with the other children in some cases in a few hours.

Visitation:

It is not beneficial to the pupils for friends to visit them frequently. If parents come, however, they will be made welcome to the classrooms and allowed every opportunity of seeing the general work of the school. We cannot furnish lodging or meals to visiting guests at the Institution. Visitation or communication may be had in the city at the Quinte Hotel, Hoffman House, Queca's, Anglo-American and Dominion Hotels at moderate rates.

Clothing and Management:

Parents will be good enough to give all directions concerning clothing and management of their children to the Superintendent. Correspondence will be allowed between parents and employees under any circumstances without special permission at each occasion.

Sickness and Correspondence:

In case of the serious illness of pupils, letters or telegrams will be sent daily to parents or guardians. IN THE ABSENCE OF LETTERS FRIENDS OF PUPILS MAY BE QUITE SURE THEY ARE WELL.

All pupils who are capable of doing so will be required to write home every three weeks. Letters will be written by the teachers for the little ones who cannot write, stating, as far as possible, their wishes.

No medical preparations that have been used at home, or prescribed by family physicians will be allowed to be taken by pupils except with the consent and direction of the Physician of the Institution.

Parents and friends of deaf children are warned against Quack Doctors who advertise their cures and appliances for the cure of deafness. In 999 cases out of 1000 they are frauds and only want money for which they pay no return. Consult well known medical practitioners in case of adventurous ideas and be guided by their counsel and advice.

R. MATHISON,
Superintendent.