



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 type-setting, 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 (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps, 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.

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

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



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1890.

Statistics about the Deaf.

The current number of the *American Annals of the Deaf* contain the usual annual tabular statement of the American and Canadian Schools for the Deaf, from which some interesting comparative statistics may be gleaned.

In the United States there are 64 public schools (not including day schools) for the deaf, with a total attendance of 8482 pupils and with 721 instructors. In only ten of these is there a larger attendance than in Ontario. In Canada there are seven schools with 700 pupils and 81 instructors. This Institution has at present 277 pupils with 17 instructors.

The total value of the grounds and buildings of schools for the deaf in the United States is \$11,047,416, in Canada \$502,030, in Ontario \$237,050. This gives in the United States an average cost for grounds and buildings of \$1310 for each pupil, as compared with \$855 in Ontario. Seventeen schools in the States have more expensive buildings and grounds than has this Province.

The total cost of the support of 48 of the schools in the United States for the last fiscal year was \$1,768,865.06. The cost of the other six schools is not given. This is an average cost of \$228.80 for each pupil as compared with \$100.93 in Ontario, \$104 in Fredericton, \$177.78 in Halifax and \$276.19 in Manitoba. Fifteen of the schools in the States cost more for support than the Ontario Institution, some going as high as nearly \$400 per pupil.

That the combined system of instruction is not in any danger of being driven out is amply demonstrated by the fact that of the 64 public schools in the United States, 46 use the combined method and only 8 the oral. The former have 7424 pupils and the latter 842. In Canada 6 schools use the combined

method and only one—the Catholic school for females at Montreal—the oral method.

In rather strange contrast with this is the fact that of the 31 private, denominational and day schools in the States, 20 use the oral system and 11 the combined method. However, these 31 schools have only 820 pupils, an average of 24 for each school, and some of them are established for the purpose of oral teaching and admit only pupils who can be taught by this method.

However oral teaching is by no means neglected in the combined schools. Of the 7424 pupils in these schools 3190 are taught speech, or 43% of the whole, which is a much larger proportion than can ever be taught to articulate with sufficient distinctness to be any practical advantage to themselves. Of these 1281 are taught entirely by the oral method.

In Canada of the 663 pupils in the combined schools 181 are taught speech and 52 entirely by the oral method. In the United States 201 of the teachers in the combined schools, or 32 per cent of the whole, are articulation teachers. If, however, account be taken of the instructors the per centage would be considerably larger.

From the above statistics it will be seen that the deaf in Ontario have not educational advantages equal to those in the States. The school accommodations are not so good, the outlay for these purposes in Ontario being only 65 per cent of the outlay for similar purposes in the States. For support also only 70 per cent as much is spent for each pupil in Ontario as for each pupil in the States. This, however is not a fair comparison. Ontario should not aspire to equality with the schools in the comparatively undeveloped territories in the far west, but with the best schools in the east. In these the outlay for each pupil is more than double what is expended in Ontario.

The disadvantages under which we labor is further indicated by the fact that in the United States schools there are on an average only about 13 pupils for each teacher, and in the best schools there only about 10, while in Ontario there are about 20. It is not necessary for us to emphasize the very great advantage these smaller classes give to the teachers and pupils concerned. That this Institution has, in face of these great odds, been able to maintain so high a rank among schools of the deaf is due to the excellence of the staff here and the really excessive efforts put forth by them—efforts that result in decimating the staff every two or three years because of broken health. It is needless for us to say that were the proportion of teachers and pupils here the same as it is in the States—the efficiency of our school, with an additional annual outlay of ten per cent, would be increased by at least fifty per cent.

Our old and welcome exchange, *The Kentucky Deaf Mute*, has changed its name to *The Kentucky Standard*. The change was made because the publishers deemed the old name offensive to the deaf, which is a sickly sentimentality that should not be pandered to. There is no shadow of disgrace attached to deafness. However, our contemporary has the right to choose its own name. *The Deaf Mute* was an excellent paper and we hope the *Standard* will be quite as good—in fact its first issue is a superior one. The king is dead! Long live the king!

Reports have been received from the Iowa School for the Deaf, the Texas School for the Deaf, the Clarko Institution at Northampton, Mass., and New South Wales Institution. Thanks.

The Chicago Schools.

The Chicago correspondent of *The Exponent* says:

"A home-to-home canvass in Englewood for signatures to a petition in favor of pure oralism is being made by Miss McCowan of the Metropolitan school. The scheme was only unearthed through a mistake of the canvassers in approaching a friend of the combined system. All efforts to obtain a copy of the petition have proved unavailing but from one of the signers we learned that it had been sent to Washington, from which we infer that Dr. Bell or some one out there is up to some devilry. Had the recent school board decision been a pure oral victory, say some, there would have been no need to resort to such desperate tactics. It takes a man of Prof. Bell's calibre and resources to invent some new subterfuge."

As all the world knows we are not in favor of the pure oral system of instruction, but all the same we must express our regret that such paragraphs as the above are allowed to creep into the press. That a serious and determined contest is being waged regarding the relative values of the two systems is true, but in the past the advocates of the combined system have beaten their opponents in many a well-contested combat, they are now making steady advancement all along the line and most assuredly in the near future will occupy the whole field. But all these triumphs have been won by calm discussion, well-directed argument and the superior results obtained by this system, and we regret exceedingly that any advocates of the combined system should allow undue zeal to override courtesy and bombard their opponents with abuse rather than by facts and arguments, both of which abound in profusion. So far as we can see there is no particular "devilry" in the advocates of either system making a house-to-house canvass for signatures to a petition.

As to the decision of the Chicago Board of Education we think that it is a fair and reasonable one. They propose that the one school about which the fight has been waged shall be continued as a pure oral school for say four or five years, so that the results there may be compared with those accomplished in the combined schools in the city, and then to let the final issue abide by these results. If the pupils in the schools referred to are on a par as regards natural ability—that is if each school takes both good and bad as they come—the test should be a fair one, and we have sufficient faith in the superiority of the combined system to await the decision with perfect confidence. But of course the test will not be a fair one if, as has been done elsewhere, only the brightest pupils are sent to the oral schools.

One result of the misunderstanding between the United States and England concerning the Venezuelan boundary, a result much to be deplored, is that it has inspired two members of the profession, on opposite sides of the line separating the United States and Canada, to compose original poetry. The first broadside appeared in the *Silent Worker*, and was followed by a reply from the *CANADIAN MUTE*. The authority of the "C. C. M." should be invoked to call its refractory members to order, and compel them to cease their muse. *Patience Companion*.

O jealousy what a hideous, soul-dim- queting monster thou art! We assure our contemporary that the ablest critics ever that the poem for which the *CANADIAN MUTE* is responsible is far superior to the last production of the poet laureate of England. Our poet generally allows his muse to remain in a state of innocuous desuetude, but when it does break forth and the said poet flings back his dis- hvelled locks, and his eyes in fire frenzy rolling, grasps his pen, then there is no use in trying to stay the torrent of sublime eulogues that pours forth in a resistless flood. Our contemporary may not be able to manufacture original poetry and be driven to the necessity of purloining its supply, but we assure it that it is as easy for our poet to dash off a few couplets like this as it is for less gifted individuals to roll off the celebrated log. If our contemporary has need of any kind of poetry—lyric, epic, elegiac, in fact anything except doggerel—it may send in its order. Our rate per foot is very reasonable.

The *CANADIAN MUTE* for this week contains a very attractive number. It is a very interesting one on the same date was easily the best of the year. This one is a full letter. The picture gallery is an unique and beautiful feature. If the likeness of those who are not met are as good as those who are met they are all perfect.—*Marjorie*.

Thanks, very much for the first, so gracefully spoken. We assure you it is temporary that all the likenesses are excellent, which of course was to be expected when the subjects were so good. Ours, it is well known, is the best of some staff on the continent, and there is not one member of it but who has taken a prize in beauty competition. We had entertained some thoughts of having such a competition, but decided against it when we considered the fact that our staff would all have to be excluded from competition, which would not be fair to them, or else all the prizes would have been retained here, which would have been rather hard on competition from other schools. However we do not intend to make any boasts about our vast superiority in this and in all other respects.

That Toronto Letter.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Could you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper, as I wish to answer a Toronto letter, from a valued correspondent, in your last issue, concerning a lady deaf-mute in this city of her own and age, tied down to her mother's apron strings. (Please take note of "Eli Perkins' Advice to Young Ladies" on first page of same issue.) There are eleven lady deaf-mutes in Toronto, all the prefix "Miss," all educated in Belleville but one, who was educated in England. Of these eleven only six attend deaf-mute meetings and with deaf-mutes in general they keep to themselves, for their own reasons, and lately Miss Fraser has been busy trying to get the mothers of the latter to force them to attend the meetings and mix with the deaf-mutes in general. Now the mothers speak to the Fraser in mutual confidence, and the idea it would appear in print, the valued correspondent was spoken to on the matter and his intentions were of the very best and his letter inadequately expressed his feelings. Why force the lady deaf-mute or the mother to permit such to attend deaf-mute meetings or mix in general with deaf-mutes when they all the time fight shy of it? For something practical: Miss Fraser, at the necessary time, I would suggest she consult the mothers again and get up an innovation. That the young lady deaf-mutes meet in their homes at the afternoon once a week, in turns and decide on some purpose, Bible reading, sewing, embroidery, etc., etc. as the majority of them would like best, I consider the mothers will welcome such an innovation, for then they will become acquainted with the lady deaf-mute companions and the lady deaf-mute will be mixing with a class of her own and age, for such is but natural. Miss Fraser is much respected, and as she gains in experience she will be a good deal to the lady deaf-mutes. As for the young and healthy deaf-mute gentleman it is deplorable, as it is known that work of all descriptions are hard to get in these days of science they are not what to blame, for they could hardly stand being starved, or without money in their pockets, and very likely there are times the mothers do not want their lady deaf-mutes to marry, and very reasonable that is, for in everything we must do the best we can. Why not have deaf-mute mothers' meetings, young men's meetings, and if only a few met together there is no need of calling it a failure for success begins with small things. Any British deaf-mute wishing to join the Guild of Saint John, as per *Deaf Mute*, please send name and address to J. W. BOWEN, 93 South Street, Toronto.

The man who has no aim in life is worse off than one who has lost his eyesight.

—Albert Laventy, a deaf-mute from the Province of Quebec, is attached to the Medicine Concert Company, which is travelling through the western part of Ontario. He was with the company at Bradford on the 10th ult., and to wonderful feats of slight of hand delighted and astonished large audiences.