

Vacation Improvements.

During the summer the usual repairs and renovations have been going on, the main building and all the out-buildings have received the required attention. Every part of the Institution was thoroughly cleansed both inside and out and, wherever required, paint and varnish was not spared. Each room was also well fumigated and, in fact, nothing was left undone that would add to the sanitary improvement of the Institution and the comfort and health of the pupils. The principal change we note is the installation of an electric light plant through all the buildings. The work is still going on and is nearing completion; about the only thing still to be supplied is the power connection. When all is finished we hope never again to be reduced to the necessity of burning candles for light as we were often compelled to do in the past. We have never used corn as a winter feed for our cattle before and the quantity of hay required has been heavy. A part of the farm was seeded down with corn this summer and a new silo built for its storage and a great saving in hay is looked for. Another improvement every one is pleased with is the new sidewalk from the Institution to connect with the city sidewalks. While it is not of course considered an Institution improvement, not being built specially for us, yet we are probably more interested in it than any one else, as our pupils and teachers use it the most. It had for a long time been in a bad state, often dangerous, and its replacement with a good solid walk affords pleasure to all.

Deaf Mutes Meet

A NOVEL GATHERING IN Y. M. C. A. HALL.

There was a most novel gathering in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on Tuesday evening. It was a meeting of the deaf mutes of the city to receive an address from Mr. P. Denys, of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville. Several addresses were made in the sign language, and the closest attention paid by those present. Wonderful expertness was exhibited in the use and interpretation of the signs. The hands are used to spell the words, and gestures and expressions of the face and eyes are employed to show the different feelings and emotions.

The chairman was Mr. David Bayno, a farmer from Nepean township, and a graduate of the Belleville Deaf and Dumb Institute. He introduced Mr. Denys, who made an address of nearly an hour's length. Mr. Denys is a born gesticulator, and is wonderfully skilful in the use of his fingers, and in expressing ideas with his face and eyes. He was in the city for the purpose of meeting the deaf mutes of the city and neighborhood, and conducting them to the Belleville Institute, which opens this week. Most of those in the audience were old pupils, and he expressed his pleasure at meeting them again and hearing of their comfort and evident success.

Mr. Denys, in the sign language, said Canada had a great deal to boast of, but that no grander or nobler work was being done in the country than that of imparting to deaf mutes the means of communicating their ideas to other men, of making them useful citizens, and, above all, of conveying to them a knowledge of the love and mercy of God. There are seven of these institutions in Canada. In the Belleville Institution ample provision is made for imparting a thorough education and teaching useful trades. And the work does not stop there, for a sympathetic interest for the pupils is maintained after they leave the school and go into life. Mr. Denys, who is a man of great sympathy, and with a large understanding of human nature, spoke of many different subjects. After his speech, Mr. Bayno again addressed the deaf mutes.—*Ottawa Citizen.*

—Miss Marion Jack, of Parkdale, has been visiting the family of the Superintendent for the last two weeks. She is a sprightly sensible young lady, and we all like her. We hope this her first visit will not be the last.

How they spent their Holidays.

Mr. Keith spent all his leisure time with his family in Toronto.

Mr. Stewart spent a couple of months in the western part of the province.

Mr. Campbell spent a few weeks in Peterborough and Victoria counties.

Mrs. Mathison enjoyed a few weeks' visit with friends in Toronto, Hamilton and Brantford.

Miss Jack spent a very enjoyable two weeks in a trip by water from Kingston to Fort William and return.

Miss Maybee spent the vacation at Warkworth with her mother, varied with brief visits to Niagara Falls and Stony Lake.

Miss Mathison spent the summer at home. She is now, however, visiting friends in Brantford and other western cities.

Miss Walker spent a few days in Berlin. The remainder of the summer was devoted to her duties at the Institution.

Mr. Middlemass spent a week very pleasantly in a bicycle tour to various points in Hastings and adjoining counties.

Miss Bella Mathison spent the vacation very enjoyably in Brantford, Hamilton, Guelph and other places in the west.

Miss Lamé visited friends for some time at Wilmette and Chicago, Ill. She also spent a few days at Flint, Mich., and Bronson.

Mr. Burns made brief visits at Port Hope, Bowmanville and Toronto. The rest of the vacation he spent in Belleville and on our beautiful Bay.

The following remained in Belleville the whole of the vacation: Bursar Matheson, Prof. Coleman, Mr. Douglas, Miss Halo, Mr. Nurse and Mr. Moore.

Mr. Cunningham put in his spare time during the summer at Deseronto, Twelve O'clock Point, and other places around our own incomparable Bay of Quinte.

Miss Bull spent her holidays pleasantly in Toronto, Bloomingdale, Tavistock and Parkdale. She had the pleasure of meeting Miss Lotta Henry last month and cannot realize that she is dead.

Miss Gibson spent her vacation chiefly with friends in Toronto and the vicinity of Hamilton and Caledonia. She also enjoyed a very pleasant time at Orillia asylum as the guest of her sister.

Miss James spent most of her holidays resting under her parental roof. She also stayed a week at Detroit, Windsor and Hamilton and a couple of weeks each at Port Stanley and Toronto.

At the close of school Mr. McKillop enjoyed a pleasant trip to Ottawa, Montreal and other places, visiting friends and seeing the sights. During the remainder of the holidays he stayed at Quait and vicinity.

Miss Ostrom took a delightful trip to Scagato, Ocean Grove and New York. At Ocean Grove she was joined by her brother and his wife, who accompanied her home for a few days' visit. She went with them as far as Toronto on their way home.

Prof. Denys on being asked what he did at home, laconically replied, "sleep." To a further question he said the only incident of his vacation was once to see the sun rise, the infant hour breaking with ineffable sweetness upon the dewy brow of morning.

Superintendent Mathison put in a busy summer at the Institution attending to necessary duties here. He varied the monotony, however, by short trips to Brockville, Kingston and Chomong Park. At the latter place he had the pleasure of capturing a number of fine beauties.

Miss Moteallo took a run down the St. Lawrence to Montreal and back again and thoroughly enjoyed that most delightful of outings. She also spent a couple of weeks in Huntsville. Miss Dempsey accompanied Miss Moteallo to Montreal. She also visited friends in Toronto for a time.

Miss Templeton is the only member of the staff who took a trip of any great length. She spent the whole of her vacation in British Columbia, and on the way there and back, and needless to say she had a most enjoyable time. Our readers will have the pleasure of reading an extended account of her trip which Mrs. Templeton has consented

ed to prepare for a future issue of this paper.

Mr. Nurse's predictions that he would be a busy man during the holidays were amply fulfilled. Just as school closed a young shoemaker arrived at his house and as it was a bouncing boy and good looking they decided to keep him; so Mr. Nurse, instead of taking his usual summer trip, remained at home and has been a nurse indeed. He, however, feels rewarded for any sacrifice made, for all the gold in the Klondyko would not buy that youngster.

At the close of the school here Mr. and Mrs. Balis spent a week at the school for the deaf near Pittsburg, Pa., taking notes and renewing old companionships, as the guests of Principal Burt. Then they spent a few days at Niagara Falls, and two delightful days at the home of John Shilton. In August Mr. Balis attended the Grand Encampment of the G. A. R. in Buffalo, lodging at Niagara Falls, where he met and escorted some 25 members of the Pennsylvania Association about the Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Balis again visited Niagara and Toronto in September, Mr. Balis assisting in the Sunday services in Toronto on the 5th. The balance of the time was spent quietly in Belleville, Mr. Balis not even succeeding in half drowning himself again.

Mrs. Terrill enjoyed an exceedingly pleasant vacation. As soon as school closed she went to Kingston where she had a quiet and restful visit with her daughter, Mrs. Forster. After a short sojourn in Belleville with her sister, Mrs. Ashcroft, as her guest, she spent some time among the Peterboro lakes, with the beauty of which she was deeply impressed. Here she had her first experience in a canoe, and also thinks it will probably be her last. After a few weeks at home in Belleville she next, in company with Mrs. Ashcroft, went to Ottawa via Rideau canal, and she regards this as one of the most delightful trips that could be taken. The beauty of the scenery is simply indescribable. She was especially impressed with the monstrous dam at Jones' Falls. This was built by the British Government prior to Confederation, and is 100 ft. long, 90 ft. high and 310 ft. thick at the base, all of solid masonry. There are four locks cut out of the solid rock, the lift of each of which is 22 feet. At Ottawa she was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. McLelland, in their happy and beautiful home. She next went to Toronto, the loved home of her girlhood, where she had the pleasure of calling on a number of the deaf. She attended a Sunday service for the deaf which was conducted by Mr. Nasmith, with Miss Fraser acting as interpreter. There were about 100 present and the service was very impressive and enjoyable.

Industry Again Rules the Hour at the D. & D. Institute.

A peep through the various departments of the above Institution would soon convince one that the wheel of duty in this part has a swift turn. It is barely a week since its silent population returned, and already every section of the huge and complex machinery has been set in full operation. True, a fair opportunity is allowed for lubricating, but when the time is up and the power is applied, the safest place is your post. This, however, is simplified by a general cheerful adherence to order and discipline. The attendance so far is 271, with a few more to come and force to mind the long-deplored exigency of the present building. Xenophos once told the world that the Persians from their youth were inclined to heroic deeds. Could the old sage but have the other day cast a glimpse on the array of little braves as they, without learning and without speech, were asked to stand and face their first lesson in the tongue of Chaucer, he would, we are sure, have declared the heroism of his day as nothing to the courage of this young band. Well, the chief and staff are alive to their responsibilities, and no doubt will, as in the past, lead their new host on to progress and achievement.—*Belleville Intel., Sept. 22.*

—The Rev. Father Connelly visited the Roman Catholic children on Tuesday afternoon last.

—The Grand Jury in their presentment to Judge Robertson, at the assizes on Tuesday last said.—"While we have not visited the Deaf and Dumb Institution we know that it is a worthy institution and would have been glad had time permitted to have visited it."

FOR THE CANADIAN MUTK.

"My Latest."

I have been through lots of ones, such as "riding a wheel," a pool, likewise an editor. I have got over the glassy surface of the rivers, (three fourths of the distance on my back) and in fact, done all sorts of interesting and idiotic things. I was betrayed surprised at any thing my man says or does, nature having more than liberal, I flatter myself, endowing me with common sense and a keen sense of the ridiculous. One balmy evening, as we were sitting on the back stoop, with only fair moon shining in all her splendor, watching my John James announced that we had been courting long enough, and it was high time to get married. Did I faint his neck, and say "I will be true." Not much. I illustrated in an able and beautiful manner that old chestnut about "Man's word being woman's law." I put my hand in his and said "all right John." What followed just then I will draw a veil over, as I dislike to be personal. Anyhow, a week later one lovely evening found us with a few mutual friends at the parsonage standing before a nice old minister. The ceremony passed off uneventfully with the exception of a few mistakes of John James, the most important of which consisted of his handing the minister a penny instead of the wedding ring to the no small amusement of the best man, who in my opinion wasn't the best man. Toward the end of the ceremony I had observed he was gradually drawing nearer and nearer to me. Suddenly I had an idea. Hadn't I read somewhere that some unprincipled young man was in the habit of trying to snatch the first kiss of the bride? I mentally resolved that my John James should not be defrauded of his rights. When the usual words were spoken there was a rush, perhaps it was a coincidence that John James got there first. The best man averred over afterwards that I rushed up to my now partner and kissed him, but I am sure I never. They took great pains to impress on me that it was bad luck to look back so we were doing our best to make a dignified retreat, when, thunder and Mars! something hit me in the back of the neck. For one confused minute I thought it was a brick or a tomato can but it was "only" an old shoe, much the worse for wear, and decidedly unfeminine. Then I arose, and we scurried for the rig, preferring to take the rest of the good wishes for granted.

ARMINA JONES

At Toronto Union Station.

Perhaps no more interesting gathering ever left the Union Station than the numbers of deaf and dumb children who assembled there at 1.30 yesterday. They arrived during the morning from all the western sections of the Province, en route to Belleville, and were met by the Superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Mr. R. Mathison, and several of the teachers. While waiting for the train for Belleville Hon. Mr. Davis, Provincial Secretary, and Inspector Chamberlain went down to see the children and meet the fathers and mothers who accompanied them as far as Toronto. The Provincial Secretary was much interested in the assembly, and held an informal conversation with the parents while the children extended "the glad hand" to each other, to the Superintendent and other officers. The parents expressed their gratification at the progress made in the education of the mute members of their families, and at the encouragement and sympathy manifested by all concerned in deaf and dumb education, which has been brought to such a high degree of proficiency in Ontario. The ordinary individual, with the use of all his powers, knows little of the disadvantages of never speaking nor hearing, and to Mr. Mathison must be given the greater meed of praise for his efforts to reach this class and make their lives enjoyable and profitable. The large party left in two or three car loads, and expected to reach Belleville at 6 o'clock.—*Globe, Sept. 16th.*

Voice Cultivation.

The deaf and dumb young lady was conversing on her fingers with a friend. "I'm going to have my voice cultivated," she smiled. "How nice! What manicure parlors do you patronize?"—*New York World.*