



# 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 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. Remit 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 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 35 cents a line for each insertion.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,  
BELLEVILLE  
ONTARIO



FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1901.

### Annual Report.

The thirtieth Annual Report of the Ontario Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb was presented to the Legislature early in the session, and copies have been distributed to all who are entitled thereto, including one to each family represented by our pupils. The report contains nothing of an unusual character, being simply the plain record of an uneventful but successful session of earnest effort and steady improvement. The report of Dr. Chamberlain, Inspector of the Institution, is brief but comprehensive, and indicates his satisfaction at the condition of the Institution and environments and his gratification at the progress made. He finds that all of the industrial departments "have been conducted in an efficient and profitable manner, giving the best possible results, considering the limited accommodation for carrying on those departments of instruction;" he testifies that "the progress made by the pupils in their educational work has been satisfactory;" he "quite agrees with the statement of the Superintendent as to the necessity for a longer term of attendance of the pupils, and the reducing of the numbers of the pupils in the different classes;" he says that "the farm has been more than usually productive during the past season and the results are very satisfactory," and he has "pleasure in hearing testimony to the friendly feeling which has universally prevailed as between the teachers and officers of the Institution, and their faithfulness in the discharge of their duties."

The report of the Literary Examiner, Mr. J. Coyle Brown, I. P. S., Peterboro, is a gratifying one to the staff. He spent a week at the Institution and he sums up his impressions as follows:—

The buildings appear well adapted to the purpose for which they were intended. The culinary

and laundry arrangements are admirable. The printing room, store and workshops are as far as I am able to judge, well suited to their respective uses. I was particularly well pleased with the appearance of the hospital and the way in which it was kept. Throughout the building as a whole there is an appearance of cleanliness and good order especially commendable in an educational institution.

The pupils appeared perfectly contented. At play they were full of animation, in the corridors and dining room, decorous, and in the class rooms, most attentive. I have seen many schools, but in none have I seen better order with apparently so little effort. By actual count there were two hundred and fifty five pupils present.

The course of study on the literary side consists chiefly of the manual alphabet, writing, penmanship, written language, arithmetic, geography, history, natural history, temperance and hygiene, articulation, drawing and current events.

I examined the pupils' answers to questions set by the teachers at an examination recently concluded. On the whole the appearance of the papers was good, considerably better than that of the average school. I am called upon to examine. The marking on the part of the teachers was well done. The answers were exceptionally good, considering the great difficulty of teaching so complicated a language as English to those destitute of the sense of hearing. I gave somewhat similar questions and others to test the value of the teachers' examinations. The replies were satisfactory.

The teaching staff I consider good. Of the relative merits of the various members I am unable to speak. Under ordinary circumstances it is unwise to give an opinion after a first visit. How much more so under the conditions here prevailing. But as a whole I never met with a body of teachers in any other institution more enthusiastic in the discharge of their duties or more anxious to find out the best modes of reaching the understanding of their pupils.

Of the others about the Institution I can speak in terms of praise. Mr. [Name] is willing and anxious to do their work well. Mr. Matheson the superintendent is particularly fitted for the position which he occupies and Miss Walker, the matron, is equally well fitted for hers. Both appear to have the confidence and esteem of the others.

While I saw so much to admire, perhaps I failed to note some defects. That the subjects of drawing occupied so inferior a place in the education of the deaf surprised me much. I intend making some suggestions to the teachers when I get a little leisure which unfortunately I have not at present.

To the Province of Ontario it is a matter of congratulation that an admirable institution is maintained by it to assist those who labour under so great a disability as the want of hearing.

The Superintendent's report presents the usual statistical tables and deals in detail with the work of the Institution during the session. The average attendance was 258 and the per capita cost of maintenance was \$175.13. The results and conclusions arrived at by Dr. Fay in his exhaustive researches into the questions of marriages of the deaf and the resultant liability to deaf offspring are given, the Convention of the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association, which was held at the Institution last June, is referred to in appreciative terms, and the Sylvan system, which was introduced this session, and to which we will refer at more length in a subsequent issue, is fully discussed. Due recognition is given to all the officers, teachers and employees for their faithful devotion and loyal co-operation, and the aims and ideal of the Institution are summed up in the following words:—

We do not deem it profitable to indulge in acedemical discussions or disquisitions as to theories and methods, but having adopted the system best adapted to our circumstances, we have laid aside every weight and that slavish, adhesion to an inflexible method that doth so hamper and hamper some schools, and applied ourselves diligently to the difficult but inspiring task placed before us. We seek for no mere spectacular and often very deceptive display of superficial attainments, but aim only at useful practical results. The too great brevity of our school course forbids that we should try to impart even the usefully ornamental in language, desirable though this may be. We are therefore compelled to follow the less attractive but more useful and important utilitarian ideal and limit our instruction to that which we think will be most useful in the stern struggle for the necessities of life. In other directions the most we can hope to accomplish is to give the pupils some glimpse of those rich treasures of knowledge and grace of expression which are available to all who diligently seek thereof, and endeavor to instill in at least some of them an ideal and ambition which will induce them by reading and study, to continue in their after lives the educative process begun at the Institution. That we have had gratifying and almost outdoor success in the first of these two objects is evidenced by the fact that so far as I can ascertain, there are only a few of the graduates of this Institution whose not earning an independent livelihood and living in at least fairly comfortable circumstances, and that our efforts in the latter direction have not been in vain. It is demonstrated by the fact that a very considerable proportion of our old pupils have by constant application attained to a culture of mind, a facility of expression and a breadth of knowledge, equalled only by well educated hearing people.

### Art Versus Nature.

Magnify the power of our senses, taking that astonishing lens which raises up giants where the most insignificant beings remained invisible, at its focus, the finest tissue, the most delicate work of human art is changed into a shapeless and coarse object on the other hand, the most modest tissue formed by the hands of nature reveals hidden riches in proportion as the magnifying power increases. *Fluorination.*

### A Happy Life.

Seek not thorns on the road of life  
That hurt with cruel pain  
Seek small joys, the sunbeams catch  
To shed abroad again.

If the door is low where I would go  
I stoop to enter in  
And often find in lowly guise  
The joys that I would win.

And if I can I lift the stone  
Out of my onward way  
If it is too heavy, then I go  
Around till close of day.

And thus each blessed day I find  
Something to make me glad  
Some precious joy that I may share  
To cheer another sad.

Photo. A. Hailer

### LOS ANGELES, CAL.

The little colony of deaf, British and Canadians, located in Los Angeles have for many years maintained an association for religious and literary improvement, headed by Mr. Thomas Widd and Mr. Norman V. Lewis, which has been the means of much good among their American and foreign afflicted brethren which however, is not always met with universal approbation on account of the nationality of the leaders, who have been accused more than once of being an American, though they are naturalized citizens of the same "glorious republic." In that paradise of America where they are located they believe that harmony with the environment is the equilibrium of happiness! They see the deep masses of snow on the mountains a dozen or so miles to the north that remind them of their former Canadian homes, but below on the plains and the beautiful foothills are the rose gardens and orange groves and an hour's ride by trolley cars or steam trains carries them to the lovely ocean beaches, where bathing goes on in the sea the year round. In January last they were entertained by a brief had storm, which was so unusual and novel that the children and teachers left their studies in school to see the sight, and there was some snow falling even in Los Angeles for the space of fifteen minutes! Most of the children and many of the grown up people had never in their lives handled the "beautiful snow," which disappeared almost as quickly as it came, to their great regret. The glorious sunshine returned and cheered on the roses and blossoms and dried up their tears of surprise and mirth. The whole land is thickly carpeted with verdure grain and grass, vegetables and strawberries, oranges and lemons, yet the snow on the mountains remains glittering in the sun, and at night there was a wonderful moon-rainbow, illuminating the heavens, eclipsing the starry firmament in grandeur. Can you wonder we, once inhabitants of Arctic Canada, love the land of our adoption and believe that "harmony with environment is the equilibrium of happiness."

We had our memorial service to the late Queen Victoria in Los Angeles churches, and mourned with the British at the loss the Empire had sustained. The newspapers of Los Angeles had more elaborate and costly cable accounts of the dying moments of Good Victoria than any we have yet seen in Canadian papers. It was a pleasant surprise to us and it has endeared the people and the country to us. Let us hope that Victoria's departure may be the means of cementing the good feelings that happily exist between the mother country and the Americans.

On Feb. 15th our friend and his wife, Mr. N. V. Lewis, the "up-to-date" job printer, caught the infection, from reading in the Canadian Mute, of generous liberality to his many friends, and laid aside his apron and stick and entertained them like Robin Hood of old. There were all the good things the land could produce in fruits, dainty cakes, ice cream, lemonade, coffee, and plenty of other things "too numerous to mention," as the auctioneer in the pawnshop would say. The party was select, as the Toronto deaf will know, who have been in the former home of this couple. There were no Apaches or grizzly bears to disturb the harmony of the gathering. Amusements were in plenty, and the party did not know that it was near midnight when they started to catch the "last cars" for home. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Korney, of "Once a Week" fame, Mr. and Mrs. and Mrs. Widd, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Reaves, a former teacher of the New York School, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgman, of Redwing, Miss Mrs. A. P. and Miss Andrews, and Mrs. Bechan, of Chicago, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Dahl,

Mr. A. Houghton, Mr. Geo. B. (Mr. Lewis' "devil") and ten or twelve deaf. All declared they had enjoyed themselves very pleasantly and the generous printer from Toronto. They had also two other parties at Washington's birthday, and the Feb. 23rd, and about fifty attended religious services on Sunday. There are about 75 deaf in Los Angeles now. "Good night," God bless the deaf in Canada and in the United States.

Putnam

Los Angeles, Feb'y, 1901

### CHATHAM CHAPS

From our own Correspondent

After three weeks of Manitoba hard weather, we are having a which is much enjoyed.

Gilber, Legault has been bought by Mr. A. C. White for another his farm.

Mr. Chris. White, who had the possession of the old White homestead, the death of his mother, some years ago, sold out last December and has moved with his family to Northern Maine, about 30 miles beyond Sault Ste. Marie. His removal was deeply regretted by the deaf-mutes who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and that of his able wife. Altho Mrs. Chris. White is not a deaf-mute she can converse fluently in our sign language. This would be taken for one. The old White homestead will be remembered by older deaf mutes of Western Ontario, who a school for the deaf was in session for some time before the establishment of the Belleville School, under the tutorage of a graduate of Hartford, Conn., School.

A short time ago the writer and family spent a whole week at Belleville and Mrs. A. C. White very pleased. Although Mr. A. C. White is an agriculturist, most prosperous and progressive in his section, it appears he is not satisfied. He has just added another acre to his 90 acre farm and is actually adding new buildings. So it is useless to ask Arthur White, "farming pay, from a deaf mute point?"

Times are rather dull at present. A shop where Mr. Kiddle had been employed for some years has just closed. Mr. K. speaks of returning to Belleville after a while. Mr. Liddy has just left "The Banner News" office and is contemplating moving to Detroit in the near future.

We have had about three or four weeks of good sleighing in this city.

It is said that Belleville's sons distinguish themselves wherever they go, and I can prove this is no idle talk. One of our most successful merchants and present Mayor, Geo. W. Simons, an old Belleville boy. He vanquished at the polls a native of this city, a clever and leading young lawyer.

Dr. Eakin's death was much regretted by all the deaf here who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, his wit and geniality being the theme of much conversation.

Felon Cure.—Take yellow clay, moisten it with water, make a plaster and apply it to the place affected. Renew the plaster every time it becomes dry. Fever sores can be cured by the same application by using the clay.

Cleaning Stoves. Stove lustre, mixed with turpentine, and applied in the usual manner, is blacker and glossier, and more durable than mixed with any other liquid. Turpentine prevents rust, and when on an old rusty stove will make it as well as new.

Reports of wonders that the deaf is working at the New York School being published broadcast in the press of the country. We do not think these reports have the endorsement of the authorities of the school as being misleading in their statements. We have been addressed by the parents of two of our pupils making magnificent results attained in the New School. The character of the reports showed plainly that the parties had led to infer from those published possibilities that do not exist. We say emphatically, without fear of any successful contradiction, that the school will help only those who have some degree of hearing and but a poor cent of them. *Ter. L. Weekly.*