Home Teaching for the Blind

One of the greatest problems which confronted the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in its early stages was that of reaching the blind people in their homes with necessary instruction. It was found that many blind people could not be concentrated for instruction, hence the decision to reach out to all comers and render definite services with the least inconvenience to the blind people receiving such. The Institute has been building up this home teaching department and staff in various sections of the country during the past six years. There are now eighteen of these teachers scattered across Canada giving instruction to approximately two hundred and twenty-five blind people and giving on the average ten thousand individual lessons per year.

HOME TEACHING DISTRICTS.

Home teachers are usually stationed at a city or large town and give lessons to pupils of that centre, as well as to those in the surrounding district. These home teaching centres are located as follows: Halifax, N.S.; Vancouver, B.C.; Edmonton, Alta; Calgary, Alta; Saskatoon, Sask; Regina, Sask.; Winnipeg, Man. (two teachers); and in Ontario at the following points: Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Barrie, Stratford, London, Hamilton, and Toronto (three teachers).

WHO AND WHAT ARE THESE TEACHERS?

In selecting prospective teachers it was found that there was a definite advantages to be gained through using blind people as instructors of the blind. When a blind person is convinced through ignorance that blind people are incapable of working with their hands it is extremely difficult for a sighted person to prove otherwise. The invariable answer to a would-be sighted instructor is, "You can do that with sight, but it is impossible for me without sight." With a blind instructor, however, their very presence gives confidence to the blind people. For this reason, the most capable blind people have been chosen in nearly every instance to carry on this home teaching work.

The Institute first of all carefully selected blind people who possessed more than ordinary ability, then arranged special normal classes from time to time to improve their knowledge. These blind teachers were instructed to some extent in the psychology of teaching, the services that the Institute was prepared to render; in the reporting of new cases found in their districts and in short, rendered capable of dealing with the varied situations to be met with in their round of calls.

The blind teacher using a guide provided by the Institute wherever necessary, makes her round of calls, instructing here, encouraging there, and everywhere bringing a cheery atmosphere and optimistic viewpoint to bear. No one can estimate the value placed by the blind in general on this service.

WHAT SUBJECTS ARE TAUGHT:

Blind people are naturally limited in the variety of occupations in which they may engage. For the most of us, "Seeing is believing," however, and it is astounding even to those engaged in work for the blind to see the variety of excellent articles produced and in many cases the almost incredible ingenuity shown by individual workers. The actual subjects on the home teacher's list are as follows: For men, instruction in Braille reading and writing, and Moon's Type (embossed), typewriting or pencil writing, and such handicrafts as basketry, chair caning, string work, etc. For girls and women: Braille reading and writing, Moon Type reading, typewriting or pencil writing, and such lines as light basketry, hand sewing, domestic machine sewing, knitting, crocheting, rug weaving.

The instruction which is given in the various embossed systems of reading mentioned above, is designed to enable blind people scattered throughout the country to receive free loan of books from the Institute's library and publishing department, also the monthly magazine published by the Institute. The instruction in handicrafts makes possible the production of saleable articles which can be disposed of either locally or forwarded to the salesroom department of the Institute in return for cash. Included in this series of articles will be a description of the salesroom department which was originally established in Toronto. There will also be a description of the salesroom branches which have more recently been established in Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

WHAT DOES THE INSTITUTE AND ITS SERVICES MEAN TO BLIND PEOPLE?

This may be best answered by a critical examination of the conditions existing prior to 1918 and at the present time. Before the Institute was organized and home teaching started, children and adults were losing their sight every year, in many cases needlessly. The provinces were prepared to furnish education for juveniles in organized schools, but in many cases children were not reported and so did not receive education. For the adult, however, there was practically nothing. He blundered his way about his own home steeped in idleness and in most cases knew little or nothing of the accomplishments of other blind people or the possibilities in his own case and certainly was given little or no opportunity to learn or become productive in any definite way. Possibly the greatest handicap he felt was the lack of ability to read and to enjoy the contents of books on which we all depend so much for entertainment. In some instances blind people were found who did not know that there was another blind person in the world and felt that they had been unduly afflicted. Cases have also been discovered where a blind person was, owing to ignorance of relatives and friends, looked on as being mentally impaired as well, with the result that treatment was intolerable. Scarcely any community in Canada can now truthfully say that it doesn't know of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and its widespread interests and work. It is very simple then to refer the case to the Institute, which in most cases can furnish with little or no delay, home teaching to adults or refer children to provincial authorities for school education. This enables the newly blinded adult to learn to read embossed print which takes the place of the ordinary printed page, and to secure one or other of the several thousand books ready for loan by the Institute. Usually it enables the individual to regain confidence in getting about, to make saleable articles in basketry or re-cane chairs for the community and as a result of this production, be enabled to contribute partly or wholly to his own support and is in many cases able to provide for his family as well. What does this all mean to the person who, losing his sight, has felt that further pleasure or interest in this life is lost and then finds that a new field is open for him where he may be useful and self respecting, not dependent? At the same time he hears of other blind people enjoying all sorts of recreations and pleasures. Have you ever been lost in a prairie blizzard and felt that hopeless despair that comes to one whose strength is spent, then the joy of seeing a light twinkling through the darkness? What hope springs up! It is for this very reason that we use the symbol "HOPE" on products of the blind.

In thinking of this work, just remember our home teachers and their tireless rounds and the blind people that are being faithfully served. You can assist in your own community by taking a helpful interest in your blind neighbor, buying his products if he can make what you want, and referring his case to the Institute if he needs help and has not already received it, or by assisting our home teachers in their rounds. "HOPE" is our watchword and our motto is "Help Them to Help Themselves."

High Ideals.

"We can't all be extraordinary," a speaker said recently, addressing a gathering of young men. "Many of us must be common, ordinary men."

This may be a level-headed, common-sense statement, but it is a very uninspiring doctrine to preach to young men, or to men or women of any age.

The truth is that it is possible for all of us to be one hundred per cent. more efficient, more successful, better developed all round than we are to-day. But as long as we hold the idea that we can't be anything out of common, we can't.

As Emerson says, he who aims at a star will shoot higher than he who only aims at a tree. As long as we think that we, with multitudes of others, must be very ordinary men and women we will be ordinary.

A sculptor cannot exceed his model. The model of ourselves that we hold in mind determine the height to which we will rise.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME

STORIES OF WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE

Author of Battle Hymn.

Baring-Gould, the author of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," has passed to his reward.

When, at the age of almost ninety, the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould died at his home in England, his prolific pen was stilled, but, of his many works in poetry and prose, the Christian church will keep immortal, through countless generations yet unborn, that stirring, martial, devotional song, and his name will live as millions sing "With the Cross of Jesus going on before."

Surpliced choir boys have wafted the words through incense-laden air, as they marched up the vaulted aisles of churches and cathedrals; at Methodist revivals it has brought thousands to the altar rail in repentance and conversion; in Presbyterian and other houses of worship it has thrilled the Covenanter and dissenter; the Knights of Columbus, a Roman Catholic fraternity, sing it at their public gatherings, and, at the conclaves of the Knights Templars, the watching thousands on the streets feel an exquisite thrill as the plumed Masons march, twenty abreast, singing the great battle hymn of the church.

Written in 1865, it never has lost its hold on the hearts of men battling for ideals. In the world war bands played the hymn while the youth of the warring nations rushed to the colors, and in the camps of armed men there rose the strain:

"We are not divided, all one body we"—

So great and universal is its appeal that it belongs to no sect, or no race—it has become the heritage of civilization, rather than exclusively the rallying cry of the Christian church.

The hymn was fortunate in finding a composer like Sir Arthur Sullivan to express its spirit in music.

"Onward, Christian Soldiers" was written on Whit Monday, in a Yorkshire village where young Baring-Gould was then curate, as a marching song for a band of school children and with no thought of publication. He has told the story himself:

"I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but could not think of anything quit suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. It was written in great haste, and I am afraid that some of the lines are faulty. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its great popularity."

When the young curate wrote the words to swing his marching children along, they sang them to the tune of "Brightly Gleams Our Banner." Several musical settings have been given them at various times, but Sulivan's is the one everybody knows — the one with the thrill in it.

Occ n Too Small.

Aunt Hannah hailed from the West, and had never seen the sea. Her nephew, who was doing well in the East, invited her to spend a month at his Halifax home. She accepted the invitation, of course.

Well, as soon as she arrived, her nephew took her down to the dock and showed her the boundless ocean, with its white foam and crashing breakers and fresh, salt-laden winds.

"There," he said. "There, Aunt Hannah, is the Atlantic. What do you think of it?"

"Humph," said Aunt Hanah. "I thought it was larger."

What is a Chiropodist?

Two small boys halted before a brass plate fixed on the front of a house, whereon was inscribed in bold characters the word "Chiropodist."

"Chirrupodist!" remarked one of them perplexedly, "What's that?"

"Why," replied his companion, "a chirrupodist is a chap what teaches canaries to whistle."

The AUTOMOBILE

STEAMING COLD.

A steaming radiator in bitter cold weather is a paradox many car owners have met. All parts of the car are apparently in good working order. The owner starts on a trip on a cold day, and after running a while finds that the radiator is steaming. He knows that the radiator is full of water and by lifting up the hood finds the fan belt working all right. Why then the steaming?

It seems unreasonable that the boiling in the radiator is due to the cold weather. But it is a fact. The water in the radiator moves downward. The hot water is on top and as the water moves toward the bottom it is cooled. In extremely cold weather it is cooled so much that by the time it reaches the bottom of the radiator it has turned into a sort of slush. This will not circulate either by the thermo-siphon system, such as the flivvers use, or by the pump system. With the supply of water cut off from the engine cylinders the water in the jackets becomes hotter and hotter and finally starts to boil. The condition can be told by putting the hand on the radiator. At the top it is hot and at the bottom quite cold.

Quite soon the slush will freeze solid and then the radiator will be damaged. The quickest way to stop the steaming, when it is first noticed, is to cover the radiator with a blanket and let the engine run idle until the bottom of the radiator thaws out. Then some covering must be put on the bottom of the radiator to stop it from freezing again.

Many forms of radiator covers are used for this purpose. A very effective one can be made out of a piece of cardboard, which is fastened to the radiator by fine copper wires run through it. The cardboard should be on the bottom of the radiator and, of course, on the outside. The space to be left open to the air depends upon the car and on the weather. In very cold weather only a little of the radiator need be open. The open space should go all the way across the radiator at the top. But a square hole in the centre of the cover may allow a few tubes to freeze while the rest are hot.

Alcohol and other antifreeze solutions are used to prevent the radiator from freezing, but they do not do away with the need of a radiator cover. Modern automobile engines are made to run with hot water in the cooling system. If it is cold the temperature of the engine is too low, the gasoline will not vaporize as it should, and some of the unburned fuel will work down into the crank case. Cover up the radiator enough to keep the engine warm at all times.

BATTERY EFFICIENCY.

It is a good practice occasionally to clean up the terminals of a car's storage battery with a solution made of a teaspoonful of baking soda dissolved in a cupful of water. This will wash off the acid and cut the corrosion, making the terminals last longer. However, use extreme care that none of the soda gets inside of the battery. After carefully tightening the terminals smear them with a small amount of petrolatum, which wards off the corrosive effects of the acid that seems to work out of all storage batteries, spreading in a sort of film over everything.

The efficiency of a storage battery depends much on how easily the current can flow in or out, and if we allow dirty or corroded terminals to obstruct this flow it naturally follows that it will greatly reduce the efficiency of both the battery and of the electric system.

ENORMOUS MAP FOR EMPIRE EXHIBITION

Remarkable and Comprehensive Plan to Show Resources of Dominion.

When the British Empire Exhibition opens in London next April Canada will indeed be "put on the map." There has just been completed in Ottawa one of the largest and most illuminating maps of this Dominion ever made. It will tell in a flash everything there is about the natural resources and physical features of this country, and tell it in a way that no map has ever told it before.

This huge map is being prepared by the Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the department of the Interior in co-operation with the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is 28 feet long and 10 feet high, and is illuminated by more than eleven hundred electric lamps. It is made of steel, and is in eight sections for transportation purposes. The actual map is painted on to the steel in permanent colors, with all the rivers, lakes, cities, transportation lines, boundaries and territories marked in the usual way. In addition, every natural resource and product of the Dominion is clearly marked in the locality where they are found. Everything there is to know about the wealth of Canada is recorded.

But the unique feature of the map is that every spot where a certain natural product is found or an industry is in existence, is illuminated with electric lights, of distinctve colors. For example, where copper is found, a purple light, conspicuous and brilliant, will mark the place. Where water power is present, it will be shown by a white light, with pulp in green, timber in brown, and so on. Each city is shown with a larger light, and each railway line is shown through a series of perforations in different colors—the C.P.R. in red, the Canadian National in green, and others in yellow.

These are illuminated by an intricate system of wiring. But they can be lighted separately. If a visitor wants to know where gold is found in Canada, the official in charge of the map will simply press a button and every place where gold is found will be illuminated, and none others. Similarly if he wants to see where wheat is raised, where textiles are manufactured, or where timber is found, the distinguishing lights will be switched on. At each side of the map an illuminated index will be placed, on which the key color of each resource or industry will be given. On the opposite side of the map will be an indicator which will reveal the statistics connected with any particular product. If a prospective settler asks where flax is produced, the lights will go on the map, and if he wants to know the annual production and other things, it is immediately available on the indicator.

This wonderful map will undoubtedly be one of the sights of the Empire Exhibition, but it will also be used in other parts of the world, for it is built on permanent lines.

He Might Have Guessed Caesar.

Why do people name dogs of which they are fond for such a desperate creature as Nero? We don't know, but like the boy of whom the Los Angeles Times tells we must accept the fact.

"Who fiddled while Rome burned?" asked the school teacher.

"Hector, sir."

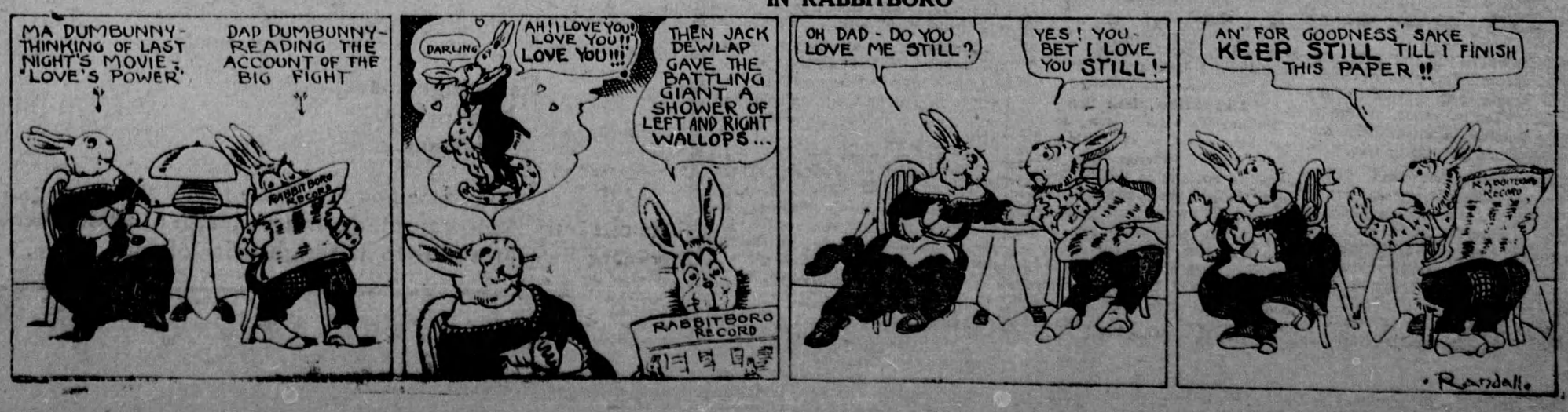
"No," said the school teacher.

"Towser," sir.'

"Towser!" exclaimed the teacher. "What do you mean? It was Nero."

"Well, sir," was the reply, "I knew it was somebody with a dog's name."

The noblest motive is the public good.

Braving the cold at thirty-five degrees below zero, men, women and children from all parts of Russia paid their last respects to Nicolai Lenin, as his body was laid to rest in Moscow. Photograph shows part of the funeral procession.

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