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STATE'S DUTY TO THE DEAF

International Conference Held at Edinburgh on Subject.

RECOMMEND MORE LIBERALITY

Belief Expressed that Private Enterprise Cannot Be Relied Upon in This Important Regard.

GLASGOW, Sept. 21.—(Special.)—An important international conference on the education of the deaf was held last month in Edinburgh under the auspices of the National Association of Teachers of the Deaf of Great Britain and Ireland. At the same time the British Deaf and Dumb association (composed mainly of educated deaf mutes) was holding its biennial conference in Edinburgh also, and a joint meeting of the two bodies took place, under the chairmanship of Sir Colin Macrae, when papers were submitted on "How Both Associations May Best Co-operate in Promoting the Welfare of the Deaf." Several foreign governments, as well as the British government, were represented at the conference, and Scottish teachers are hoping that these meetings may result in stirring up the people of Scotland to take more interest in their deaf school than they have done in the past. The meetings of the teachers' association were held in the Training College buildings, Chamber street, and among the gentlemen who presided were the lord provost of Edinburgh, the lord advocate, Mr. Charles Douglas, D. Sc., and Prof. Kirkpatrick and Darroch. The British Deaf and Dumb association's meetings took place in the Guild hall, St. Andrew square. In connection with both bodies, receptions were given by the directors of the Edinburgh institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and by Mr. R. C. Williamson, vice president of the association, and Miss Williamson. Among the delegates to the international conference were official representatives of the governments of Holland, Denmark, Italy, Russia, the United States of America, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and Natal, and unofficial representatives of France, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Lord Provost Gibson accorded the delegates, and in particular the foreign representatives to the conference, a very cordial welcome to Edinburgh. The fact that so many continental countries were represented there was an indication of the importance attaching to their deliberations. Speaking of the purpose of the conference, his lordship said there were some who believed the state ought to provide more liberally than they did for all institutions for the education of the deaf and dumb. He did not object to that, but he objected to too much state officialism. If institutions of this kind could be conducted by private enterprise, provided they had sufficient means, probably that was the most sympathetic way they could reach the afflicted; but there was a duty on the government to see that these afflicted ones were not neglected.

Mr. Roorda, Groningen, Holland; Signor Giulio Ferreri, Italy; Mr. Hogben, New Zealand; Mr. W. H. Nicholas, Durban, Natal; Dr. F. M. Gallaudet, Washington, U. S. A.; Herr Forchhammer, Nyborg, Denmark; and Prof. Belanger, Paris, having spoken, Dr. R. Elliott, Margate, chairman of the National Association of Teachers of the Deaf, moved a vote of thanks to the lord provost. Dr. Gallaudet seconded the motion, which was cordially accepted. Dr. Gallaudet, president of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf, gave an account of the schools for the deaf in the United States. He said that of the 5,885 pupils in the combined system of schools 5,537 were taught speech, making, with the 2,399 pupils in the oral schools, something over 8,000 pupils of the whole number of deaf children in the schools being taught to speak. The majority of their schools were sustained by appropriation of public funds by state and city governments. Very few had endowments.

Duty of the State.
Unthinking people sometimes asked if it was right to burden the state with the considerable expense of educating the deaf in schools in which they were not only taught, but were fed and in some instances clothed. There was no doubt as to what the answer to this question should be. From an economic point of view it was an absolute saving to the community to raise the deaf from a condition in which they were dependent, dependent, and often dangerous members of society and make them self-supporting, wealth-producing citizens. From a humanitarian point of view still stronger reasons might be found, for education meant more to the deaf in the United States represented in their buildings and equipment, an investment of over \$1,000,000, and the annual cost of maintaining these schools was about \$2,000,000. But no outlay on the part of city, state and national government was more cheerfully met. The conference passed several resolutions embodying its views.

Scottish National Exhibition.
A meeting of the executive committee of the Scottish National exhibition, 1908, was held last week in Howell's rooms, Edinburgh, and was largely attended. Mr. Dobie presided. A large number of interesting reports on the work of the exhibition were submitted and progress made in regard to them. In response to invitation, it was stated that the technical schools of Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee would contribute specimens of their students' work, and that the Scottish Education department had offered a Japanese educational exhibit. It was reported that the building plans will be immediately placed in the hands of the surveyors; that it was hoped that in three weeks schedules would be in the hands of contractors, and that a beginning might be made with the construction of the exhibition buildings early in September. It was explained that the exhibition buildings in 1886 were not begun until the middle of October. The reports by the conveners of the fine arts and the education and historical committees were of an encouraging nature. On behalf of the fine arts committee, Dean of Guild Wilson stated that they had received very satisfactory promises of the loan of pictures by eminent Scottish artists. On behalf of the historical committee, it was intimated that it had been practically arranged that there should be a pageant each month while the exhibition was open illustrative of some period of Scottish history, while the education committee reported that they were preparing a scheme for national competitions among the school children throughout Scotland in woodwork, needlework and other code subjects.

Operations of Carnegie Trust.
At the graduation exercises of Aberdeen university Principal Lang, vice chancellor, who presided, in his address at the close referred to the operations of the Carnegie trust, to which, he said, a prominent place must be assigned by those who hereafter should trace the educational developments of the twentieth Christian century. In the quinquennial that had now nearly terminated the university had received from the trust for equipment, teaching and research the sum of \$25,000 and he desired most gratefully to acknowledge the benefit that

had been conferred. With balances remaining and the assurance given that equally liberal treatment might be expected in the future, there was a reasonable prospect of further additions to the professional staff and further contributions to the efficiency and the sufficiency of university instruction. With reference to the other branch of the trust's operations—the payment of class fees—he was speaking to many who, like graduates of former years, had come to remember with gratitude the aid they had received in the prosecution of their studies—and given without any action that could justly be regarded as inquisitorial or as injurious to the self-respect of the beneficiaries. Any question university had been met with connected with this branch of its operations. That there had been questions necessitating anxious consideration during the past year the court and the senate and its faculties knew very well. But of this he was confident, that when the trust and the university had the one and only aim—to do the best that was possible for the higher education of the people and for the advantage of men and women of good parts—adjustments of any variance of view would be found, and relations would ever be marked by harmony and mutual esteem. Do as they might, there would always be material for discussion, occasion for differences of opinion, so long as a proportion—a vastly preponderating proportion—of students must be regarded as beneficiaries of an outside trust that could lay down its own conditions, however judiciously and admirably it might act. He confessed that, things being as now they are, he, for one, should hail the day when the university treasury should be so replenished as to make the abolition of fees possible, and with this the opening of the university free to all who were qualified for its instruction.

USELESS LIVES OF RECLUS

Men of Wealth Who Have Lived Like Paupers and Left Their Families.

Not long ago there died in New York Samuel Dunlap, an octogenarian, who, although he could any day have written a check for a million and yet have remained rich, lived forty years with a housekeeper as sole attendant, on the expenditure—apart from drink—of a workman. During all this long period he was only known to purchase one suit of clothes, a cheap pair of gray trousers and two cheap coats. He had four straw hats in sixteen years, and for the last of them he paid a quarter.

Mrs. Ealden, his housekeeper, used to cut his hair once a month, and she had instructions to save the hair and put it in a mattress, "as it was a pity to waste it." Do as they might, there would always be material for discussion, occasion for differences of opinion, so long as a proportion—a vastly preponderating proportion—of students must be regarded as beneficiaries of an outside trust that could lay down its own conditions, however judiciously and admirably it might act. He confessed that, things being as now they are, he, for one, should hail the day when the university treasury should be so replenished as to make the abolition of fees possible, and with this the opening of the university free to all who were qualified for its instruction.

In a tiny, creper-covered hut on the summit of a mountain in Pennsylvania there is living today a member of one of the richest families in America, a man reputed to be enormously wealthy. From year's end to year's end this hermit, who the hills spends his days alone. He does his own cooking and housework, washes his own linen in a neighboring stream, catches his own trout, shoots his own game, cultivates his own vegetables, milks his own goat and makes his own bread. He never receives or sends a letter, never sees a newspaper and holds no communication with the outside world with the exception of an occasional chat with a young farmer who brings him flour, eggs and meat once a week.

Another millionaire hermit, who a very few years ago died in Moscow, was G. V. Solodovnikoff, who had made a fortune, variously estimated at from \$4,000,000 to \$10,000,000, by colossal speculations on the Bourse. So many and varied were his investments that it was said the handling of coupons alone gave employment to ten girls. And yet this lord of millions, who might have rivaled kings in the splendor of his palaces, lived for years in a tumble-down two-story cottage, surrounded by sordid and rotting furniture. For weeks together he never put his head outside his front door, and he spent half of his time in his dressing gown. When his will was opened it was found that he had left the whole of his stupendous fortune for philanthropic purposes, from building schools for girls to providing cheap lodgings for the working classes.

When Paul Colasson, the famous hermit of Paris, died recently, it was stated that for the last twenty-seven years of his life he had lived exclusively on a diet of eggs and bread, supplied to him every day by an old servant, the only human being he ever allowed to enter the magnificent mansion to which he had retired on the tragic death of his favorite nephew. During all these years he had nursed his grief in solitude, never once, so far as is known, leaving the gorgeous palace which he had converted into a prison.

St. Petersburg recently lost its most remarkable character in the person of a millionaire count, who, in spite of his immense wealth, lived a life of the most sordid poverty and self-denial. He was known in rags, was a familiar spectacle in the streets of St. Petersburg and many a sympathizing passerby pressed alms into the hands of the man whose daily income was estimated at \$5,000.

Now must we forget the millionaire hermit who died a few years ago in the garret of a house in Waterloo road, London, at the advanced age of 91 years. For many a year no servant had entered his poor attic; his meals were served and placed outside his door at stated intervals. He was never known to cross his threshold, and he died alone in the one ill-furnished room in which—though he had an income of \$100,000 annually, he had spent so many years of sordid and self-imposed confinement.—Baltimore Sun.



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